

December 23 Answers

- 1) Having shown that Christ and his covenant are superior to the Mosaic covenant and its priesthood, the author urged his readers to **draw** near to God and **hold** fast to their faith. This teaches us the importance of **endurance**, for it is only when we have done God's will to the very **end** that we will receive what has been promised (Heb 10:36). The author's quote of Habakkuk 2:4 teaches us that God is only pleased with those who **live by** faith. Saving faith is the **attitude** of a **lifetime**, not merely the act of a moment. Our lives must be characterized by a **present, living** faith. Living by faith means living as though things which haven't happened yet will surely come to **pass**. It means living as though things which cannot be seen are really **there**. Faith is not imagining what we want to happen and then believing that it will. Instead, faith is **believing** what God has said, **obeying** what God has commanded, and **trusting** in what God has promised. Our task is to **lay** aside anything that would slow us down, **reject** any sin which would entangle us, and **run** with endurance the race set before us. We must keep our eyes **fixed** on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. We must "strive for **peace** with everyone, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb 12:14). We must not be like **Esau**, who squandered a precious birthright for a single bowl of **soup**! We should be **grateful** that we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and we should offer well-pleasing **service** to God, in reverence and awe, for God is a consuming fire!