

DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

WITHOUT HIM THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

➤ READ HEBREWS 10:19-25

SUMMARY: The blessings we have in Christ, and the hope he has given us, inspire us to remain firm in faith.

Look

- “To enter the Most Holy Place” (19) – We can go before God’s throne of grace to find help now. We can rest in the hope of living in God’s presence eternally.
- “By the blood of Jesus” (19) – Jesus’ blood is the way we enter into eternal rest.
- “A new and living way...through the curtain” (20) – In the Old Testament, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place through a curtain and only with blood. Jesus’ body, the sacrifice he made for us and the blood he shed for us, is a new and living way through which we enter heaven, the true tabernacle.
- “A great high priest over the house of God” (21) – Jesus is the High Priest who ministers on our behalf before God.
- “Hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience” (22) – Through faith in Christ’s blood we have been cleansed from sin and our conscience need not trouble us any longer because the guilt of our sin is gone.
- “Bodies washed with water” (22) – Just as the priests in the Old Testament were required to wash in the basin and purify themselves, so we have been given the water of Baptism, which purifies us by linking us with Jesus’ sacrifice.
- “Let us draw near...hold unswervingly...consider...not give up meeting together” – All of these are present tense verbs, stressing that these activities are not to cease but be continuous.
- “Hope we profess” (23) – Whereas the English use of the word hope usually conveys a sense of uncertainty, in the Bible the word hope is used for an established fact. It speaks of the object of our hope, eternal life. It remains hope, however, only because we are still waiting for it to be fulfilled.
- “Day” (25) – The day of the Lord’s return when he gathers his own to himself in heaven.

Discuss

1. What is the best way you can spur your fellow Christians on toward love and good deeds?

Believers need to gather together to be strengthened and give strength. Believers go to the gatherings for worship and fellowship not just to gain for themselves but to give to others. Let the subtle error that believers don’t need the church, that they can sit alone at home with their radio or television set on Sunday mornings, be laid to rest by that strong urging. Like blades of grass growing together or charcoal briquettes glowing together, we need one another.” (Hebrews People’s Bible)

2. Why do you think it was such a great temptation for the early Jewish Christians to give up meeting with their fellow Christians?

3. What is the ultimate encouragement for us to remain firm? (*Hint: look at verse 23*)
4. To summarize this section, find and record the four strong appeals the author makes and why we can/why we want to do this. (*Hint: take note of the words "let us"*)

- a. 1st appeal: _____

i. Why we can do this: _____

- b. 2nd appeal: _____

i. Why we can do this: _____

- c. 3rd & 4th appeal: _____

i. Why we want to do this: _____

➤ **READ HEBREWS 10:26-31**

SUMMARY: A strong warning to hold on to your hope in Christ.

Discuss

5. What does the writer have in mind when he speaks about "deliberately keep on sinning" and "no sacrifice for sins is left"?
6. Considering the context, to what sin can and should we also attach these words?
7. Why do even Christians need to hear these strong words of warning?

Look

- *“Trampled the Son of God under foot” (29)* – Unbelievers who see Christians falling from faith watch those Christians trample Jesus underfoot. It emboldens them to reject Christ.
 - *“Treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him” (29)* – When Christians fall from faith, they slap Jesus in the face. In so doing, they witness to the world that the blood of Jesus means nothing to them.
 - *“Insulted the Spirit of grace” (29)* – It is a driving away from themselves the One who has led them to Christ and filled them with hope. An act that witnesses to the world how little the Holy Spirit means to them.
- **READ HEBREWS 10:32-39**

SUMMARY: Words of encouragement that follow words of warning.

Look

- *“Remember those earlier days” (32)* – Their earlier time of life in Christ was to serve as an encouragement
- *“Will of God” (36)* – John 6:28,29 - Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” John 6:40 – “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Discuss

8. What place does the promise of a reward (vs. 35) have in the lives of Christians who know they are saved by grace alone?

9. Once again the writer quotes from the Old Testament (Habakkuk 2:3,4). What three lessons do these verses teach us?
 - a. *He who is coming will come and will not delay* =
 - b. *But my righteous one will live by faith* =
 - c. *And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him* =

10. What are some ways you have found to be very helpful in “boosting your confidence”?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 11:1-6**

SUMMARY: Faith is being sure of what we do not see. Such faith shaped the lives of God's saints.

Discuss

11. How does the writer's definition of faith fit in with the context of the book?
12. Why did Abel's faith...
 - a. ...make his sacrifice acceptable?
 - b. ...bring God's commendation?
 - c. ...enable him to continue speaking?
13. How does the writer describe Enoch's faith? (*hint: see the end of verse 6*)

Look

- "By faith we understand the universe was formed..." (3) – Note how the "by faith" pattern isn't followed in this verse. Instead, it sets the tone for everything else.

Endure

By warnings, promises, and reminders, the writer encourages us to hold on to our hope of everlasting life in Christ. He encourages us to follow the example of the faithful who went before us.

Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Lord God, you have called us to a continual life of worship.

G: Thank you for granting your Son Jesus to open the way for us.

L: Help us to draw near to him daily in our personal and public worship. And help us to encourage our fellow Christians

G: to be strong in worship, in acts of love and kindness, and in hope.

L: Forgive us for our sins.

G: Help us to live in continual repentance.

L: In Jesus' name we pray.

G: Amen.