

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 10:26-39

“Don’t Toss Your Confidence” – May 27, 2018



Introduction

The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint. That’s why we’re told to run with *endurance* ([12:1](#)) – it’s not just about running the fastest time, it’s about enduring to the finish line. That’s why we’re told to strive to enter God’s rest ([4:11](#)) and to hold fast our original confidence till the end ([3:14](#)). As Jesus once said, “The one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt. 24:13). To keep us on the track and to give us strength to make it to the end, God speaks a warning and an encouragement in our text today – and we need them both.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Warning: Turn from sin (10:26-31)
- II. Encouragement: Garner strength from biblical hope (10:32-39)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 10:26-31](#)

There are five warnings weaved into the book of Hebrews: 2:1-4, 3:7-4:13, 6:4-8, 10:26-31, and 12:25-29. The warning here is one of the most unsettling. What is the sin in view here? The *ongoing* and *deliberate* sin is when a professing Christian, refuses to repent of a sin and holds onto *it* instead of Jesus (what’s known as *apostasy*). The problem is, if we walk away from Christ, *there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins* (Heb. 10:26b). The reason for the severity of God’s wrath here is due to what we’re saying of Christ and God’s grace. In vv28-29, walking away from Christ after agreeing with the gospel is to trample underfoot the Son of God (to treat Jesus like dirt), profane the blood of the covenant (to count Jesus’ death as worthless), and outrage the Spirit of grace (who convicts us of sin and points us to Christ).

Take some time to examine your own life for a moment. Is there any sin in your life you’re not at war with? The only sin that’s unforgiveable is the one we refuse to turn from indefinitely; the one we harden our hearts and refuse to listen to God on. This warning is God’s grace to wake us up to what’s at stake – a sort of spiritual smelling salts. If there is such sin, confess it, turn from it and put it to death with God’s help ([Rom. 8:13](#)).

Additional reading: 1 John 1:9-2:1; Psalm 139:23-24; Psalm 32

2) Read [Hebrews 10:32-39](#)

Not only do we need the encouragement to stay on track, we need strength to endure. In the Christian life, hope is like fuel – so to fill our tank, the author of Hebrews looks back (vv32-25) and looks forward (vv36-39). How does *recalling the former days* when we've endured a trial give us hope for the present (to help, check out [1 Peter 1:6-7](#))? Who is someone from church you can point out evidences of God's grace as a means of encouragement?

Note how in vs. 34, the original readers were able to accept the plundering of their property *with joy*. How were they able to do that? Is such joy possible for us today?

Looking forward, Hebrews reminds us that soon, Jesus will come and not delay. Then our wait will be over! But until then we are called to live by faith – to trust the God who is in control and cares for us to get us to the end. I love how Katherine von Schlegel (great name!) puts it in the hymn, "Be Still My Soul":

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

This day is closer than we can imagine! Oh to have 'love's purest joys restore'. Take some time to pray now, asking God to open our eyes to see and value Christ supremely, to strengthen our faith to wait with contentment, and to help each other do so till Christ returns or He calls us home.

Additional reading: Hebrew 3:8-9; Habakkuk 2:4, 3:17-19

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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