



# Keep on Believing

Hebrews 10:19-39

June 14, 2015

# Introduction

- 1:1-10:18 – Doctrine
- 10:19-13:25 – Practical

Last week:

- **Only the perfect sacrifice of the Son of God can make the sinner perfect.**
- The only true peace is knowing that we have peace with God, and because of that peace we can have an eternal relationship with Him.
- This peace is the removal of our guilt which was gained by the death/sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

# Outline of the Text Today

1. A gracious **invitation** (vv. 19-25)
2. A solemn **exhortation** (vv. 26-31)
3. An encouraging **confirmation** (vv. 32-39)

Big idea: You can confidently have faith in Jesus to save you today, sustain you tomorrow, and to be with him for eternity.

# 1. A Gracious Invitation (19-25)

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And **let us consider** how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 9:7- 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

- “new” – recent, fresh sacrifice

Hebrews 8:13, which is “obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”

- A Fresh sacrifice
- A sufficient sacrifice
- A ever-living sacrifice

- “living”

Hebrews 7:25 – “he always lives to make intercession for them”

Hebrews 3:6 - but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- Assurances to enter the “holy places”
  - A living and eternal High Priest
  - An "open invitation" to enter the presence of God.
  - invited to dwell in the presence of God every moment of each day.

## Let us draw near (v.22)

Hebrews 10:22 - **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**We must prepare ourselves spiritually to fellowship with God**  
**Fellowship with God demands purity**

1 John 1:5-7 - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**What does drawing near involve?**

- Confession of sin. Agreeing with God about our sin.
- Studying and meditating on the Word of God
- Prayer (Intentional and spontaneous)
- The sacraments of baptism and especially the Lord's Supper

## Let us hold fast (23)

Hebrews 10:23- **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him,
- **We draw near to God through Jesus, through his finished work.**
- **The hope of the believer**
  - God is "bringing many sons unto glory" (Hebrews 2:10).
  - Believers are "partakers of the heavenly calling" (Hebrews 3:1) and therefore can rejoice in hope (Hebrews 3:6).
  - Hope is one of the main themes of Hebrews 6 (vv. 11-12, 18-20).
  - We are looking for Christ to return (Hebrews 9:28) and we are seeking that city that is yet to come (Hebrews 13:14).
  - **When a believer has his hope fixed on Christ, and relies on the faithfulness of God, then he will not waver.**

## Let us consider one another (24-25)

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And **let us consider** how to **stir up one another** to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- The emphasis here is not on what a believer gets from the assembly, but rather on what he can contribute to the assembly.
- Faithfulness in church attendance encourages others and provokes them to love and good works.
  - You will be an encouragement to others
  - Greater capacity to glorify God as “living stones”
  - The church gives visible expression to the Gospel.
- Faith (10:22), hope (10:23) and love (10:24)
- Faith, hope and love is shorthand for the gospel.

## 2. A Solemn Exhortation (26-31)

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- This is the fourth of the five exhortations found in Hebrews.
- It is written to warn believers and follows in sequence with the other exhortations.
  - **The believer who begins to**
    - (1) **drift from the Word** (2:1-4)
    - (2) **doubt the Word** (3:7-4:13).
    - (3) **dull toward the Word** (5:11-6:20)
    - (4) **despising the Word** (10:26-31)
      - Despising = to regard as worthless
- Psalms 51:1 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- **A major theme of Hebrews is "God has spoken - how are you responding to His Word?"**
- "The sad consequences of forgiven sins" – William Culbertson
- "Let me fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are His mercies" (1 Chronicles 21:13).

### 3. An Encouraging Confirmation (32-39)

**But recall** the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For,

"Yet a little while,  
and the coming one will come and will not delay;  
but my righteous one shall live by faith,  
and if he shrinks back,  
my soul has no pleasure in him."

**But we are not** of those who shrink back and are destroyed, **but of those** who have faith and preserve their souls.

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- The secret of their victory was in their faith and Patience. A call to courageous endurance.
  - Hebrews 6:12,15 - so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises...And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.
  - We are not just saved from our sin by faith; we also must **live by faith**.
  - Matthew 16:25-27 - For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
  - You can be confident that Jesus can and will save you today, sustain you tomorrow, and on the basis of His shed blood, you will be with him for eternity.