



Hold Fast in Hope to Move Forward

Lesson Thirty-Five • Hebrews 10:23

Ch 10:19–13:25 | What Should We Do Now? MOVE FORWARD with Conviction in Community!

Draw near by a faith that works (10:22; Ch 11) in hope that perseveres (10:23; Ch 12) and with a love that labors (10:25; Ch 13)!

Each Head of “Let Us” Is...

1. A call to **WORSHIP** together as believer-priests.
2. A command to **APPLY** together as believer-priests.
3. A conviction to **LIVE OUT** together as believer-priests.

Believer Priests / Priesthood of Believers

Ephesians 2:17-22; Philippians 2:17; Romans 5:1-2; 12:1-2; 15:15-16; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 3:18; Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 20:6; cf. Exodus 19:5-6.

Definition: New Covenant believers who have been perfected by the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ to worship with priestly privileges due to His perfected priesthood at God’s right hand.

The greatest of these priestly privileges is to **ENTER** God’s holy presence with no other Mediator than the Lord Jesus Christ, though never in isolation from the gathered congregation.

“The central message of biblical Christianity is the possibility of men and women approaching God through the work of Christ.” – Frances Schaeffer

Clarification: In Hebrews believers are never called “priests” but are repeatedly called to worship as such: **Entering** the Most Holy Place; **drawing near** to God’s holy presence; **offering spiritual sacrifices** pleasing to God (13:15-16); **offering acceptable service** to the living God (9:14; 12:28); and, above all, **offering up lives of obedient faith in hope with love** (9:21-25; cf. 10:5-9; Ch 11; Romans 12:1-2)

“There is only one priesthood, that of Christ Himself, and He shares it equally with all the members of His body. It is a corporate rather than [just] an individual possession.” – R. A. Bodey

“The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers states that all believers in Christ share in his priestly status; therefore, there is no special class of people who mediate the knowledge, presence, and forgiveness of Christ to the rest of believers, and all believers have the right and authority to read, interpret, and apply the teachings of Scripture.” – J.V. Fesko

Hold Fast to the Last in Hope to Move Forward | Hebrews 10:23

No matter what **HOLD FAST** to our future hope of bodily entering God’s presence due to Christ’s sacrifice and priesthood, because God’s promise-keeping guarantees we’ll make it and it’ll be worth it!

Public **CONFESSION** ➔ Personal **CONFIDENCE** ➔ Practical **CONVICTION**
(4:14; 10:23) (3:6, 14; 6:11) (6:11, 18-20)

Doctrinal confessions become personal & congregational convictions through practical application!

Three Questions for Holding Our Hope Fast to the Last

1. What Is the HOPE We Confess and Posses as Believer-Priests?

Four Glorious Aspects

- Promises of the New Covenant **COMPLETELY FULFILLED** by Jesus’ blood. (8:6-13; 10:15-22)

The Four “Better” Promises of the New Covenant

New Hearts Given! ♦ God’s Presence Indwelling! ♦ Personal Relationship Secured! ♦ Complete Forgiveness Granted!

- Priesthood of Jesus eternally **FUNCTIONING** for us. (10:19-22; 3:6)
- Perfection of bodily entering God's holy presence with the **FULL ASSURANCE**. (7:19; 11:1; 6:19)
- Prospect of entering God's **FINAL REST** in His unshakeable Kingdom on earth. (1:8; 12:21-29)

The Unshakeable, Heavenly, Kingdom to Come in the Book of Hebrews	
A Promised City <i>Hebrews 11:10; 13:14; see also Revelation 21:1-27</i>	A Promised Rest <i>Hebrews 4:1-11; see also Revelation 21:4-8; 22:1-5</i>
A Promised Country <i>Hebrews 11:13-16; see also Revelation 21:3</i>	A Promised Assembly = Church + Israel <i>Hebrews 12:22-23; see also Revelation 21:9-14</i>
God's Presence Dwelling with God's People in God's Place as a Kingdom of Priests! Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6	

2. What Causes Us as Believer-Priests to **WAVER** in Holding Fast to the Last?

"Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all...As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength." – G. K. Chesterton

- What causes us to waver in holding fast to our confession?

1. **PERSISTING** in willful sin. (10:26-31; 3:12; 12:15-17)
2. **UNRELENTING** suffering. (10:32)
3. **INCREASING** persecution. (10:33-34)
4. **DRIFTING** into apathy. (2:1-4; 5:12; cf. Luke 8:11-15)
5. **FALLING** for false doctrine. (13:9)

- What happens when we choose to waver and not hold fast to the last?

We **throw away** our confidence of draw nearing to God! (10:35)
 We **shrink back** from making our confession public! (10:36-39)
 We **fall away** from the promised hope of future salvation! (3:12-15; 6:4-6, 11-12)

- What happens we refuse to waver and choose to persevere in holding fast to the last?

We prove **"we are members of God's house."** (3:6)
 We prove **"we have become partakers of Christ."** (3:14)
 We **"realize the full assurance of hope until the end, we become imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."** (6:11-12)
 We **"hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm to the end."** (3:6)

3. Why Should We as Believer-Priests **ALWAYS** Hold Fast in Hope to the Last?

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;" Hebrews 10:23

God is a faithful **Promise-Maker** who cannot lie and a faithful **Promise-Keeper** who can be trusted to come through for His glory and our good in the end! (6:11-20; 11:1-12:3)

God's promise-keeping is greater than our present tribulation and future persecution!

Hold Fast to the Last in Hope to Move Forward!

*Let us hold fast to the hope we confess all the way to the end, because it will be worth it!
 God guarantees it by the blood of His Son and the power of His Spirit in us as His New Covenant believer-priests!*

JESUS IS BETTER: Shadows & Substance in the Sermon-Letter to the Hebrews!

FIRST IS LESSER: The OLD COVENANT <i>To the Fathers in the Past!</i>		EARTHLY SHADOW <i>Promise Progressively Revealed!</i>		HEAVENLY SUBSTANCE <i>Fulfillment Progressively Revealed!</i>		SECOND IS BETTER: The NEW COVENANT <i>With Us in These Last Days!</i>	
1	PROPHETS as GOD'S HUMAN MOUTHPIECES ARE LESSER. Spoke promises progressively, partially, and pictorially that pointed forward.		JESUS the SON of GOD as GOD'S FULL and FINAL REVELATION IS SUPERIOR to the PROPHETS. (1:1-3)		JESUS' REVELATION as GOD'S SON IS BETTER! God now speaks "in Son" who is the appointed Heir of all things. Creator and Sustainer, God's flawless Radiance and firstborn Ruler who sits as the Priest-King.		
2	ANGELS as GOD'S CREATED SERVANTS ARE LESSER. Sent as servants to serve the saints.		JESUS the SON of MAN as SOVEREIGN IS SUPERIOR to ANGELS. (1:4-14)		JESUS' RULE as GOD'S FIRSTBORN SON IS BETTER! The Son of God who became the Son of Man to reign now and will reign eternally over God's people, angels, and all creation – both old and new.		
3	LAW from GOD by ANGELS WAS GOOD but IS LESSER. Delivered God's holy Law but don't rule the world to come or are redeemed.		LORD JESUS' SALVATION IS SUPERIOR to the LAW by ANGELS. (2:1-18)		JESUS' MESSAGE of GREAT SALVATION FULFILLED IS BETTER! Our better Adam, better firstborn Brother, and better High Priest. <i>Don't drift away!</i>		
4	MOSES & JOSHUA WERE FAITHFUL but ARE LESSER. Faithful servants in God's House but did not provide God's final rest.		SON as APOSTLE & HIGH PRIEST IS SUPERIOR to MOSES & JOSHUA. (3:1-4:13)		JESUS' SONSHIP IS BETTER! Listen to the faithful Son over God's House as it's Builder. <i>Don't harden your heart!</i>		
5	AARON & SONS WERE APPOINTED PRIESTS but ARE LESSER. Sympathetic representatives of sinners as sinners.		SON'S PERFECTED PRIESTHOOD IS SUPERIOR to AARON & SONS. (4:14-6:20)		JESUS' SINLESS, PERFECTED PRIESTHOOD IS BETTER! Confess and draw near to our ascended, perfected High Priest. <i>Don't grow lazy!</i>		
6	ABRAHAM & LEVI ARE LESSER than the PRIESTHOOD of MELCHIZEDEK. Pictured as a preeminent, perpetual priest-king like the Son of God.		SON'S MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD IS SUPERIOR to ABRAM & LEVI. (7:1-10)		JESUS' MELCHIZEDEKIAN PRIESTHOOD IS BETTER! Fulfilling the picture of Melchizedek's preeminence as the perpetual Priest-King.		
7	MELCHIZEDEK WAS BETTER but STILL LESSER. Literally a perpetual priest-king by inspiration but not the Son of God		SON of GOD AS HIGH PRIEST IS SUPERIOR to MELCHIZEDEK. (7:11-22)		JESUS as GOD'S SON IS EVEN BETTER THAN MELCHIZEDEK! Literally eternal High Priest by incarnation & resurrection for eternal salvation.		
8	LEVITICAL EARTHLY MINISTRY IS LESSER! Sinful, weak, dying priests offering many sacrifices for themselves & others in an earthly sanctuary made by men that never perfected anything or anyone.		SON'S PERFECTED MINISTRY Is SUPERIOR to LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD. (7:11-8:6)		JESUS' HEAVENLY MINISTRY IS BETTER! Having an indestructible, resurrected life. He ascended to God's right hand as High Priest by divine oath being perfected, permanent, & powerful to save.		
9	LEVITICAL FIRST COVENANT IS OLD and LESSER! Priests mediating the first covenant which was insufficient and is now outdated, obsolete, and being obliterated.		SON'S SECOND, NEW COVENANT in HIS BLOOD IS SUPERIOR to the FIRST, OLD COVENANT (8:7-13; 9:15-22)		JESUS' SECOND COVENANT IS NEW and BETTER! His blood established the second, new covenant which is sufficient, eternal, and progressively fulfills all God's promises by the indwelling Spirit.		
10	LEVITICAL SANCTUARY IS LESSER! Priests serving in a man-made mobile tent with restricted access to the Most Holy Place that was an earthly, temporary copy of the heavenly one.		SON'S MINISTRY in the HEAVENLY MOST HOLY PLACE IS SUPERIOR to the EARTHLY SANCTUARY. (9:1-14; 23-28)		JESUS' SANCTUARY IS BETTER! Entered the Most Holy Place in the heavenly to offer Himself as the sinless once for all time blood sacrifice to cleanse the pathway into God's presence.		
11	LEVITICAL SACRIFICES ARE LESSER! Priests sacrificing the blood of animals repeatedly according to the Law with only external cleansing.		SON'S OWN SACRIFICIAL BLOOD IS SUPERIOR to MUCH ANIMAL BLOOD. (9:15-28)		JESUS' SACRIFICE IS BETTER! His own blood offered once for all time to cleanse inwardly, sanctify progressively, and forever perfect worshipers with priestly privileges.		
12	PRIESTS STANDING with REPEATED SACRIFICES ARE LESSER! Always standing to sacrifice many animal bodies repeatedly and routinely with no lasting sanctification or perfection of worshipers.		SON'S OWN SACRIFICIAL BODY SEATED IS SUPERIOR to PRIESTS ALWAYS STANDING TO SACRIFICE ANIMALS. (10:1-39)		JESUS SITTING with ONCE for ALL SACRIFICIAL OBEDIENCE IS BETTER! His own body offered once for all to perfect worshipers, so draw near by faith, hold fast in hope, and sir up with love to persevere to the finish. <i>Don't fall away!</i>		
13	OLD COVENANT WORTHIES LIVED by FAITH but ARE LESSER! Examples of persevering faith but did not receive the promise, since God would provide something better for us & without us they would not be made perfect.		JESUS as TRAILBLAZER & PERFECTOR IS SUPERIOR to ALL GOD'S PEOPLE. (11:1-12:17)		JESUS' SINLESS RACE to the FINISH IS BETTER! Stay fixated on Jesus by faith who is now seated at God's right hand having successfully endured the hostility of sinners. <i>Don't fall short of God's grace!</i>		
14	OLD COVENANT MOUNT SINAI & SHAKABLE KINGDOM ARE LESSER! Earthly mountain, terror, fear, laws, curses, and condemnation without hope.		JESUS' NEW COVENANT, UNSHAKEABLE, HEAVENLY KINGDOM IS SUPERIOR to the OLD COVENANT, SHAKABLE, EARTHLY KINGDOM. (12:18-29)		JESUS' NEW COVENANT MOUNT ZION & UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM ARE BETTER! Hold fast in hope that perseveres until the coming of the "now-not yet" unshakeable Kingdom. <i>Don't refuse God who is now speaking "in Son" by the Spirit!</i>		
15	EATING PRIESTLY MEALS from an EARTHLY ALTAR IS LESSER! The bodies of the sin offering animals are burned outside the camp.		JESUS CHRIST IS the SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, and FOREVER! THEREFORE, HE IS ALWAYS SUPERIOR, GREATER, and BETTER! (13:1-16)		JESUS' SHAME OUTSIDE the CAMP IS BETTER! Move forward with love to join Jesus outside the camp, worshiping as believer-priests, looking for the City to come, and offering spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God!		

Don't Settle for Lesser When We Have Better in Jesus Christ: The Son Who Became Son to Sit & Serve as Our Coming Heavenly Priest-King!

Final Division Hebrews 10:19–13:25 | MOVE FORWARD with CONVICTION in COMMUNITY to GOD’S FINAL REST!

Message of 10:19-25 | Boldly Draw Near to the Heavenly Holy of Holies as Believer-Priests to Move Forward to God’s Final Rest!

Based on What We Publicly Confess & Already Possess in Our Priest-King’s Better Sacrifice & Greater Priesthood, We Boldly, Continually, Personally & Congregationally Answer God’s Call to Worship!!

Since WE ALREADY POSSESS WHAT WE PUBLICLY CONFESS... 10:19-21	LET US DRAW NEAR WITHOUT FEAR! 10:22 / Ch 11	LET US HOLD FAST to the LAST! 10:23 / Ch 12	LET US STIR UP to KEEP UP! 10:24-25 / Ch 13
The Goal ENTER the MOST HOLY PLACE <i>for Making a Pilgrim’s Progress...</i>	WORSHIP TOGETHER in God’s PRESENCE <i>to Keep Making Progress!</i>	WITNESS TOGETHER with PERSEVERANCE <i>to Keep Making Progress!</i>	WALK TOGETHER on PURPOSE <i>to Keep Making Progress All the More as the Day Draws Nearer!</i>
The Manner ENTER BOLDLY and HUMBL Y	CONFIDENTLY Without FEARING!	CONTINUALLY Without FALTERING!	CONSISTENTLY Without FORSAKING!
The Means ENTER by the NEW and LIVING WAY by JESUS’ SHED BLOOD <i>Access Granted by New Covenant Inauguration Authorization Given through the Veil of Separation</i>	A PRACTICING FAITH!	A PERSEVERING HOPE!	A PROVOKING LOVE!
The Basis JESUS’ BETTER BLOOD SACRIFICE as the GREATER PRIEST-KING <i>Over God’s House: Family of God & Kingdom of Priests!</i>	SINCERE HEARTS FULL ASSURANCE COMPLETE CLEANSING <i>Internally & Externally</i>	HOPE’S CERTAINTY <i>based on</i> GOD’S FIDELITY	ASSEMBLY REQUIRED: To MOTIVATE ONE ANOTHER <i>with a Laboring Love</i> To MEET with ONE ANOTHER <i>with a Working Faith!</i> To MANIFEST with ONE ANOTHER <i>a Persevering Hope in Christ’s Soon Return and Our Final Salvation!</i>

Doctrinal Confessions Become Personal & Congregational Convictions Through Practical Application!