

## **Fixing our Hearts on Jesus**

### **Encouragement to Persevere**

#### **2 different types of encouragement to persevere**

#### **#20 Hebrews 10:26-39**

When was a time in your life you just wanted to quit?

But you continued to persevere because there were twin motivating factors going on at the same time.

1. The total terror of not finishing!
2. The encouragement of the reward for enduring to the end!

These two motivations go together to encourage us not to give up.

- Example snorkeling on honeymoon.
  - Fear of not making it back and drowning.
  - Reward of the rest of trip/marriage.
- Important project at work
  - Risk the consequences of losing you job.
  - The reward from the work and completing the project.
- Learning a musical instrument
  - Warning of the fear of performing without practice in front of everyone.
  - The reward of the joy of learning a skill that will be a joy for you and blessing to others for the rest of your life.

This morning God gives **Encouragement to Persevere**

This morning we will respond to...

#### **2 different types of encouragement to persevere.**

Both warning and positive encouragement. Please turn in your bibles to Hebrews 10. That's on Page \_\_\_\_ in the back of the NT in the Bible in front of you.

Last week Pastor Nitzschke transitioned us from the summer series back to our Hebrews series. **Fixing our Hearts on Jesus**

He emphasized 3 commands from Hebrews 10:19-25 that have been repeated themes throughout the book of Hebrew for the proper response if your heart is fixed on Jesus being better.

1. To draw near with a sincere heart (v. 22)
2. To hold fast our confession without wavering (v. 23)
3. To stimulate one another to love and good deeds (v. 24)

And last week ended with the importance of...

v.25 - "...encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

God continues the pattern of warnings and encouragement that we have seen in:

- Hebrews 2:1-4
- Hebrews 3:1-18
- Hebrews 6:4-12

**READ Heb 10:26-39** This is the Word of the Lord.

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." <sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

<sup>32</sup> But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, <sup>33</sup> partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. <sup>35</sup> Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive <sup>[b]</sup> what was promised.

<sup>37</sup> For yet in a very little while,  
He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

<sup>38</sup> But My righteous one shall live by faith;  
And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

This is the Word of the Lord.

This morning we will respond to...

## **2 different types of encouragement to persevere.**

### **1. Consider the warning for continued disobedience.**

The reason that we must encourage one another all the more as you see the day of Jesus Christ's return drawing near is because of the just judgment of Jesus that is sure and terrifying for sinners. It's the day that Jesus will subdue his enemies.

#### **a. The terrifying judgment of the Lord.**

**Hebrews 10:26–27 -<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.**

The severest wrath of God is reserved for those who go on sinning “willfully” after receiving the knowledge of the truth about Jesus Christ.

Willfully means that it is sin done with a high hand and not out of ignorance or coercion. They have rejected the gospel, and likely in this context the spurned the work and words of Jesus by returning to the OT sacrifices.

Jesus's sacrifice alone provides cleansing and the forgiveness of sins,

- “When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete.” Heb 8:13
- “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” Heb 10:4

- He takes away the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:9-10

This is rejecting the only way for sins to be forgiven.

It’s spurning the one and only sacrifice that can cleanse sinners that God will accept in their place to declare them righteous by faith.

Therefore, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins under any other way.

Because Jesus is the only sure sacrifice for mankind, if you reject Jesus, the Son of God, and do not accept him by faith, you are opposed to him.

You then have a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the enemies of God because our God is a consuming fire!

So you can either receive mercy for your sins through Jesus or receive judgment for your sins when Jesus returns.

Alluding to Isaiah 26:11 and Zephaniah 1:18, God contrasts the righteous and the wicked. The righteous, who because of God’s grace walk in God’s ways and look forward to the Lord’s coming and his judgments on earth, whereas the wicked do evil spurning God’s grace and are in fear at the Lord’s coming.

Application: Jesus changes your relationship to sin. Knew about Jesus, but did not persevere in faith but persevered in sinning and continued to remain in their sin.

Their profession of faith, was not possession of Christ evidenced by not persevering in faith, but persevering in sin willfully.

How fearful and terrifying is judgment? God makes a comparison from something of a lesser judgment to even greater judgment.

#### **b. Comparison of more severe judgment**

**Hebrews 10:28–29 -<sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who**

**has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

We saw a similar argument in Hebrews 2:1-4, if the Law declared by angels when violated received a just retribution, how much more severe and inescapable the judgment of those who reject the Word spoken by Jesus the Son, who is greater than the angels?

So now he points to the Law of Moses that most Jews were familiar with. He says that according to places like Deut 17:2-7 that those who violate the covenant and turn away from the LORD and worship other God's (setting aside the Law) faced capital punishment and were put to death. They died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. The extreme penalty of death by capital punishment is used to make the point that as serious this penalty and judgement was it is the lesser judgment.

Look at verse 29... how much severer punishment...for those who set aside the good news of Jesus.

To try and help us grasp just how bad this response of rejection is the

### **c. Two truths about God from the Song of Moses**

**Hebrews 10:30–31 -<sup>30</sup> For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”**

**<sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

This is a direct quote from Deuteronomy. and it is interesting how much the Psalms and other places in scripture goes back to the song of Moses.

**Deuteronomy 32:35–36 -<sup>35</sup> ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’ <sup>36</sup> “For the LORD will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that *their* strength is gone, And there is none *remaining*, bond or free.**

Notice the warning...vengeance, retribution, calamity...it is right and good for a holy God to judge wickedness and rebellion....it is good for us to understand that...

**i. Vengeance belongs to the Lord**

**Romans 12:19 -<sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.**

But notice also how...

**ii. The Lord judges - vindicating the innocent and punishing the guilty**

So this warning has great encouragement and positive motivation for believers...not just a warning to persevere...but an encouragement to persevere.

**2. Consider the positive motivation for continued obedience**

**a. Remember the suffering and obedience from the past that we go through together.**

**Hebrews 10:32–33 -<sup>32</sup> But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, <sup>33</sup> partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.**

Remembering Perseverance in Past suffering

Past endurance motives us to keep going.

The reason to persevere is there is something better on the horizon...we need to

**b. Focus on the better and lasting inheritance**

**Hebrews 10:34–35 -<sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that**



How do we know we need faith that endures?

He references the book of Habakkuk 2:3-4 that lays out four characteristics of the faith that endures.

**Habakkuk 2:3-4 -<sup>3</sup> “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay. <sup>4</sup> “Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.**

- 1) Faith that actively waits (*endures*) with a view to God’s promised fulfilment in the future.
  - a. “For the Vision for the appointed time...it will not fail.”
  - b. “Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay”
- 2) Faith characterizes those whom God declares righteous.
  - a. “But my righteous one shall live by faith.”
- 3) Faith does not shrink back.
- 4) Faith pleases the LORD.
  - a. “MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.”
    - Without faith it is impossible to please God! (11:6)
    - For by it (faith), the people of old received commendation (11:2)
    - Those who live by faith commended as having pleased God (11:5-6)

**James 1:12 -<sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.**

**Hebrews 6:9 -<sup>9</sup> But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.**

He says something similar in verse 39....

“<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.”



Song of Response in Prayer - “Oh, For a Faith That Will Not Shrink”