

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 5TH-6TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

CONSISTENT (HEBREWS 10:19-25) SWITCHING GEARS

V. 18 ends the doctrinal section of Hebrews and v. 19 begins the practical application.

- The application of knowing Jesus and what He has done is experiencing transformational power by **drawing near to Him, maintaining and growing our faith, and loving other people.**

WE CAN APPROACH WITH CONFIDENCE

Because of the blood of Jesus, we can approach God with confidence. We now have access to God and can have an intimate relationship with Him.

- Since the dividing wall is gone, we all have access to the Most Holy Place—the presence of God.

A "NEW AND LIVING WAY"

One devoted to Christ is made new and the old self dies (Romans 6). **To "live" means we have purpose and empowerment to live righteously.** This contrasts works-based religion and the culture of the world that lead to death.

- **Jesus is the way (Acts 9:2), not just to eternity, but to fulfillment in the present.**

TO "DRAW NEAR WITH A TRUE HEART" (VS. 21-22)

God loves us, but we must choose to have a relationship with Him. Thankfully, He has made Himself approachable.

- We're told to approach God with **sincerity, proper motives, confidence that Christ is able, repentance, working on righteous living, and obedience through baptism.**

WE ARE ALSO TOLD TO BE CONSISTENT

Our "hope" is to be "without wavering." This does not mean we are perfect, but that we continually lean on who is perfect, Jesus. No persecution or temptation is to sway us from our devotion to Christ.

- **Christ provides stamina and strength.** Examples will be given in Chapter 11.

WE ARE ALSO TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHERS

Christians are to "provoke love and good works" first to our brothers and sisters in the faith. Then, we have a social obligation to the world around us that does not know Christ.

- **We do good works as a result of grace shown to us and in the hope that others will experience God through them.**

"I LOVE JESUS, BUT DON'T CARE FOR CHURCH"

V. 25 clearly instructs us not to forsake worship gatherings. God's design is that we **meet together, learn from each other, meet needs, encourage, correct, promote godliness, and work for the good of the Kingdom and the local community.**

- This should increase as time passes.

WHY WERE THE HEBREWS DISENGAGED?

Their negligence of corporate worship was most likely from persecution.

- In America, we experience more social than physical persecution. But, **suffering in this world is certain (John 16:33), and the hatred for people living for His namesake (Matthew 10:22) will increase.**

TERRIFYING (HEBREWS 10:26-31)

REJECTING CHURCH CAN LEAD TO REJECTING JESUS

The author alludes to the possibility of rejecting the truth of Christ if one stops attending worship services and stops fellowshiping with the Christian community.

- In church, we **hear the Word of God, find accountability, pool resources, find correction, and receive encouragement.**

IGNORANT VS. DELIBERATE SIN

The OT ceremonies provided reconciliation for sins committed in ignorance but not done deliberately. Jesus came to forgive even sins done with the knowledge of right and wrong.

- As Believers in Jesus, **we have assurance that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive"** (1 John 1:9).

THIS IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO ABUSE GRACE

Romans 6:1-2 says, "Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not!" **God forgives rebellion, but we are not to remain in a lifestyle of sin.**

- **Willful sin can be forgiven, but too often we do not seek forgiveness. We justify sin under the banner of "God is love."**

PERSECUTION WAS SCARING SOME AWAY

Some left their faith because of persecution, but the author reminds us that **a much worse fate awaits those who receive "knowledge of the truth" and deliberately turn from it.**

- **Knowing truth but abandoning Christ leads to a "terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire."**

THIS IS BECAUSE WE REJECTED SALVATION

Christ came not to condemn, but to save the world from condemnation (John 3:17).

- We are already falling into eternal chaos based on our sins and the mistakes of humanity. **Jesus offers an escape from this fate, but if we reject His grace, there is no hope of avoiding hell.**

DEMONSTRATING SALVATION

The author could not evaluate their inward commitments, so he urged them to **show faith by how they live.** He encouraged them to **endure adversity and be committed to the commands of Christ.**

- He reminded them of their lives before Jesus and **the severity of going backward.**

AN EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

Rejection of The Law could be punishable by death (Deuteronomy 17:6). But those who "trampled on the Son of God," "regarded as profane the blood," and "insulted the Spirit of grace" have committed a much worse offense and will receive a far greater punishment. Having **access to the truth but rejecting it is very severe!**

TO "INSULT THE SPIRIT OF GRACE"

This is not referring to atheists, agnostics, or people of other faiths who have not had exposure to truth. This addresses those who have heard truth and had a consciousness of His grace but willingly disobey Christ.

- **We are held accountable for knowledge we have received!** (Luke 12:48).

A SOBERING REMINDER

Apostates should know it will be a "terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"

- **The one who knows right and wrong should dread the thought of an eternity without Jesus.** The author was fearful that **the recipients of the gospel had made light of its importance.**

ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 10:32-39)

"REMEMBER THE EARLIER DAYS..." (V. 32)

We must **remember** the time Jesus saved and changed us, and also the times He has delivered us from trials and temptations.

- The recipients of this letter had **refused to compromise** in the past and were encouraged to **hold on to their faith in the present turbulence.**

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

"Sometimes you were publicly exposed to...afflictions, and at other times you were companions of those...treated that way" reaffirms the strength in Christian community.

- They suffered because of their association with Christ and the church but found **suffering for righteousness to be an honor.**

AND THEY FOUND JOY IN THIS?

They knew they had better possessions in their relationship with Christ and the promise of eternity with Him since no one could take those things away; they are eternal (Matthew 6:20).

- Can we make the same claim? **Do we consider it a joy (James 1:2) to lose earthly things in favor of heavenly things?**

"DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE" (V. 35)

Confidence in Christ provides endurance through tough times. We receive "rewards" for our relationship with Jesus now and even greater rewards in eternity.

- **Endurance comes through learning to trust God.** This comes from **prayer, study, and full submission to His ways.**

TWO THINGS HAPPEN WITH ENDURANCE

First, **we will do the will of God.** Second, **we will receive the promises of God.**

- **We show the validity of our faith by living it out.** Our faith is to be evident through the fruit of the Spirit and with the action of the gifts of the Spirit (Galatians 5; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12).

HOLD ON, HE'S COMING (VS. 37-38)

Isaiah 26 and Habakkuk 2 are integrated here to encourage us to hold firm because God's provision and help are on the way.

- Our perceived lack of action on God's part does not mean God is failing to keep His word. **The Believer must trust in the timing and sovereignty of God.**

THOSE WHO WAIVER HAVE NO HOPE

The righteous live by faith, but to the one who "draws back," God finds "no pleasure in him."

This is not a lack of grace on God's part, but a denial of His grace on ours.

- The opposite is true of **those who hold on to the faith and knowledge they have received.** **Those people will obtain life.**

THE MEANING OF LIFE

- Our purpose is to steward life wisely by getting to know our Creator and growing that relationship. If we do that now, we inherit a perfect eternity with God.
- We are also to get to know other people and show the love of God to them in the hopes they will join us in heaven.

NOT EASY, BUT WE HAVE HELP

- Life is not easy. Distractions, temptations, frustrations, and disappointments make it difficult to live correctly/godly.
- Fortunately, **God loves and wants to be with us. Jesus paid the price for sin, and we have access to the power of the Holy Spirit if we desire it and submit to Him.**

THE TERRIFYING DANGER OF PURSUING SELF

- On the other hand, **the road of self-pursuit leads to self-destruction.** When we **do not pursue truth, find little value in corporate worship, neglect or compromise the Bible, and suppress conviction,** we lack regard for God. This insults "the Spirit of grace" and leads to eternal judgment.

"BUT WE ARE NOT THOSE..."

- We are all exposed to a level of truth and held accountable for it. If we "draw back" from that knowledge we will be "destroyed," but "those who have faith" will be saved.
- The author was trying to pump up the readers. **If we are not to be one who "draws back," we need encouragement.**
- We find encouragement in two ways: First, we must have **people who rally behind us, hold us accountable, and biblically love us.** Second, **we must learn to encourage ourselves in the Lord!** This comes through **casual and strategic prayer, the Word, and meditating on the things of God.**