

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 5TH-6TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

NOW WHAT? (HEBREWS 10:19-25)

BOLDNESS TO ENTER THE SANCTUARY (V. 19)

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the most holy place probably with fear and trembling, but we are exhorted to enter God's presence with boldness.

- Why? Because of the blood of Jesus.
- Anyone who has entered a relationship with God through faith in Jesus can experience this amazing privilege.

A NEW AND LIVING WAY (VS. 20-21)

Jesus has opened for us a "new and living way" to access God's presence, through His sacrifice.

- In the Temple, there was a veil/curtain that separated humanity from God's presence. But just as Jesus' body was "torn," so was that veil—indicating that now we can come to God boldly (Matt. 27:51). We have a great High Priest who ensures us access!

"LET US DRAW NEAR..." (V. 22)

The blood of Jesus has cleansed and washed us. The ordinance of baptism symbolizes this.

- Because we've been forgiven, cleansed, and given new life in Jesus, we are invited to pursue an intimate, close relationship with God.
- Our hearts and consciences have been cleaned!
- Everything we do as Christians is to flow out of this relational connection we have with God.

"LET US HOLD ON TO THE CONFESSION..." (V. 23)

Discouragement, temptation, cultural pressures, and widespread, rampant deception can cause us to waver in what we know to be true about God.

- A renewed confidence in the greatness of Jesus and the new and living way He has given us to relate to God helps us stand strong.
- God is faithful, and He has given us promises!

"LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER..." (V. 24)

In our day and age, considering other people has become a lost practice.

- Our lack of empathy, selfishness, consumerism, pride, and ferocious individualism has crept into the church ("...just me and Jesus!").
- We are commanded to live in Christian community! Christians who try to fly solo will waver in their faith and be spiritually immature/emaciated.

"...IN ORDER TO PROVOKE LOVE AND GOOD WORKS"

Why are we to "consider one another"?

- When we do, it incites and forces us to learn how to love as Jesus commanded us to love.
- Living in Christian community forces us to learn how to forgive, serve, be selfless, and how to live unoffended and gracious lives.
- When we do, it incites and forces us to display our faith through good works—not just talk.

"NOT NEGLECTING TO GATHER TOGETHER..." (V. 25)

How is this all supposed to work? Through a serious commitment to regularly gathering with other Believers for worship, study, prayer, community, and encouragement.

- Heb. 10:25 might be one of the most ignored, dishonored, and disregarded commands of Scripture in the American church—we see it as a suggestion, but God sees it as a necessity.
- Church attendance does not earn us God's love, favor, or eternal salvation. We gather with other Believers because we delight in worshiping and obeying God.
- This instruction is not about legalism. There are times when we will miss church. It is when we get into the habit of neglecting church that we are actually being disobedient to God.

WHY DO WE OFTEN NEGLECT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY?

1. Poor theology (Church as a building/event, a service to consume, or an optional program).
2. Habitual busyness (Other things take priority in our lives over our obedience to God).
3. Church hurt (For fear of getting hurt again, we disengage and play it safe).
4. Unrealistic expectations (We have idolized an ideal of church that simply does not exist).
- "Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial. God hates this wishful dreaming because it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. Those who dream of this idolized community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others and by themselves. They enter the community of Christians with their demands set up by their own law, and judge one another and God accordingly. It is not we who build. Christ builds the church." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

KEEPING THE DISCIPLINE OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1. It must become a nonnegotiable priority—or else you will find excuses not to do it.
2. It must be less about checking a box and more about worshiping God (singing, Scripture, and the sacraments), fellowshiping with other Believers, and seeking the Lord in prayer.
3. It must be seen as a matter of obedience and disobedience to God's Word.

DELIBERATELY SINNING? (HEBREWS 10:26-31)

"....IF WE DELIBERATELY GO ON SINNING..." (V. 26A)

In a way, most sin is deliberate. We are responsible for our actions and cannot blame all our sinful choices on ignorance.

- But this type of deliberate sin is speaking to something far more serious: trampling on the Son of God, regarding as profane the blood, and insulting the Spirit of grace (v. 29).
- This is an intentional, calculated life decision.

IDEA 1: THE DELIBERATE SIN OF APOSTASY

This seems to be the intentional, deliberate, and calculated sin of an ongoing rejection of Christ's work for us on the cross.

- This is describing someone who deliberately turns their back on Jesus.
- There might be a connection between vs. 25 and 26: If we reject Christian community, it may easily lead us to eventually reject Christ.

IDEA 2: DELIBERATE SIN (PROVING NO TRUE SALVATION)

If someone has truly received Christ into their heart and life as Savior and Lord, a spiritual transformation has happened.

- A true Believer will sometimes fall into sin, but they prove their identity as a regenerate Christian by repenting and turning from that sin (1 Jn. 3:9).
- If someone stays in a place of deliberate, ongoing, unrepentant sin, they are rejecting Jesus.

"AFTER RECEIVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH" (V. 26B)

There is a way in which a person can receive the knowledge of the truth without having received the Truth itself.

- You can encounter the message of salvation, have knowledge about Christ intellectually, and possess a familiarity with Christianity without ever truly repenting and placing faith in Christ (Matt. 7:21-23).

"THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE" (V. 26C)

If Jesus' sacrifice for sin is rejected, there is no other sacrifice that remains that can truly cleanse and make us right before God.

- If we willfully reject Jesus through (A) deliberate apostasy, (B) deliberate, ongoing sin from which we have no intention of repenting, we cannot expect God's forgiveness and mercy.
- God does not just overlook sin.

AN EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT (V. 27)

The language of verse 27 is an allusion to Isaiah 26:11, which details the day God will judge His enemies with fire.

- God is opposed to all evil. He is goodness, holiness, perfection, and light.
- Someday God will rid this entire cosmos of all evil, sin, and darkness. Those who willingly align with evil make themselves God's enemy.

IF YOU THINK IT WAS BAD BACK THEN... (VS. 28-29)

God revealed His Law to Israel through Moses. Anyone who willingly and deliberately disregarded the Law was severely and justly punished.

- If God severely treated those who disregarded the revelation of His holy character (the Law), how much more severely will He treat those who trample on the blood of His own son?

THE FEAR OF THE LORD (VS. 30-31)

God is full of mercy, love, forgiveness, and grace. But He also will execute vengeance and judgment on those who reject His offering of Jesus.

- It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. If God created such magnificent and terrifying things (the sun, oceans, mountains), how much greater is He?

DON'T DRAW BACK (HEBREWS 10:32-39)

A HARD STRUGGLE WITH SUFFERINGS (VS. 32-33)

After these Jewish Believers came to faith in Christ, they apparently suffered a lot for their faith.

- They were publicly taunted, afflicted, and were companions of those who were also treated this way.
- The test of our faith comes when it starts to cost us something. When it is no longer "cool" or popular to follow Christ, will we stand our ground?

A BETTER AND ENDURING POSSESSION (VS. 34)

The faith of these Jewish Believers had cost them the loss of property and imprisonment.

- Yet, they were so convinced of the truth of Christianity and the surpassing reward of Christ that they submitted joyfully to these trials.
- 'You will eventually "miss out" on the temporary pleasures of this Earth because of your faith in Christ—but you have something better.

YOU HAVE COME THIS FAR...(V. 35)

These Christians were profoundly discouraged, and it is easy to see why!

- Every Christian will go through seasons of profound discouragement. Sometimes, it is tempting to want to go back to our old lives.
- The confidence these Believers had in Christ had caused them to endure suffering. Now, the writer of Hebrews says, "Do not throw it away!"

YOU NEED ENDURANCE (V. 36)

Spiritual endurance is the inner power and fortitude to withstand hardship or stress; the ability to keep going despite the strong temptation to stop or to turn back.

- Endurance in the Christian life is God's will for us.
- There is a great reward promised for Believers if we finish our race. We must learn endurance.

LIVING BY FAITH (VS. 37-38)

This quotation from Habakkuk 2:3-4 was written during a time when Babylon was rising as a world power and God's people were struggling with doubt and injustice.

- God's response was: "Trust me—My promise may seem delayed, but it will come."
- Faith is the key to endurance. Faith is not just belief, but a way of life that continues to trust in God.

WE ARE NOT THOSE WHO DRAW BACK (V. 39)

The confident conclusion is that these Believers will endure and receive the promise of God.

- They will not draw back into an Old Covenant relationship with God or any other replacement for Jesus.
- Saving faith is faith that endures. Just keep trusting, believing, following, and leaning into Jesus' strength to persevere (Jn. 15:5).

FAITHFULNESS AND CONSISTENCY

- It is impossible to truly reflect God's character, deepen our relationship with Him, and be a witness for Christ in our world without being faithful and consistent.
- Being consistent and faithful is not just about discipline—it must flow from a love for God and a desire to prioritize Him in our lives above everything else.
- Real faith is a lifestyle that consistently and faithfully chooses to trust in God and obediently follow Him, even when it's not easy.
- Four Commitments—
 1. Commit to boldly approaching God every day.
 2. Commit to staying in Christian community.
 3. Commit to confessing and repenting of your sin.
 4. Commit to holding on to your faith.