

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 9

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Tonight as we return to our study of Hebrews, we are again stepping into chapter 10 where we are looking at the 3 exhortations given by the writer to the Hebrew believers.

Notice Hebrews 10:22-25

Now we have looked at two of the exhortations so far.

1. **Let us draw near.**
2. **Let us hold fast the profession of our faith.**

Tonight we come to the 3rd exhortation given to these believers.

3. **Let us consider one another.**

Notice Hebrews 10:24

We need to first of all understand the meaning of the word "consider" which is used in this verse. I want to show you another place the same word is used, and this will help us to better understand what the writer is saying here.

Matthew 7:1-3

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

² *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*

³ *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*

Here in these verses Jesus is speaking against the attitude of self-righteousness. This attitude was the very attitude of the Pharisees. They were so quick to criticize others for their sins, but they were guilty of ignoring sin in their own lives. That is exactly what Jesus is addressing in Matthew 7:3 when he says, "*Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*"

The Pharisees were unwilling to CONSIDER the beam in their own eye. This helps us to understand that the word "CONSIDER" is the opposite of "IGNORE". Therefore, we can know that the word "CONSIDER" means "TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO".

Let us now get back to Hebrews 10:24. The exhortation here is that believers are not to ignore one another but instead are to "provoke" one another which means "to stir up" one another unto LOVE and GOOD WORKS. The idea here is that we are to encourage one another to live in a way that honors God. An illustration of this would be the stirring of a camp fire in order to be sure the coals remain hot and continue burning.

Application:

We live lives today that are very busy, and if we are not careful, we can become so consumed with what we have going on in our lives that we are not aware of a brother or sister. We need to be there for one another, and we need to be willing to encourage one another. Many people would see this as the responsibility of the Pastor, but the writer of Hebrews places this responsibility upon the entire body. We are all given gifts which are to be used to edify the body of Christ.

Romans 12:4-8

⁴ *For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:*

⁵ *So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*

⁶ *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;*

⁷ *Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching:*

⁸ *Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

So the point is that we are to get involved in the lives of other believers, and we are to be there to stir the embers if we see them growing cold.

Notice Hebrews 10:24 again.

The writer gives to us the details of what these believers were to be doing. They were to be showing love, and they were to be involved in good works. This is interesting when we

consider the back ground. They were being persecuted for their faith in Christ, and yet they were to be showing forth love and good works. The order which the writer gives here is very important. We are to stir one another to first LOVE and then secondly to do GOOD WORKS. This is a reminder of what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The reason the writer places LOVE before GOOD WORKS is because the GOOD WORKS without the LOVE would mean nothing.

Let me define the term "GOOD WORKS". This would be the service in the believer's life from the time he or she is saved until the day we leave this world. These would be the "GOOD WORKS" which honor our Lord. This would be conducting our lives under the control of the Holy Spirit. A service of "GOOD WORKS" is the very reason why God allows us to live in this world after we are saved.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Titus 2:13-14

¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

It is through the good works that others are able to see Christ in us, which then glorifies God.

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

¹⁵ *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

¹⁶ *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Titus 3:8

⁸ *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*

No matter what the situation is that we face, whether it is times of freedom or times of persecution, we are to live a life of good works. This is clearly seen in the letter which Peter wrote to the believers who were suffering under Nero.

1 Peter 2:11-13

¹¹ *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

¹² *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

¹³ *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;*

¹⁴ *Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.*

Now let us get back to Hebrews again.

Notice Hebrews 10:24-25

The writer now goes on, and he exhorts the Hebrew believers that they were NOT to forsake the assembling of themselves together as some were doing. Apparently some of the Hebrews were leaving the "church" gathering, and they were going back into Judaism. They were "unplugging" from the local assembly. The writer exhorts them not to do that because it was in the gatherings that they would be strengthened. The writer knew that if they stepped away from the gathering together that they would grow cold and indifferent.

The word "forsaking" is a very strong word. It signifies "to abandon in time of danger". It is the very word used by our Lord on the cross.

Matthew 27:46

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

So the idea here in Hebrews is that these believers were living in a very dangerous time. The persecution was physical, but the battle was spiritual. The enemy had his sights set on driving these believers away from total commitment to Jesus Christ so as to keep them from being effective for God. The meaning of "forsaking" here helps us to understand that the pressure they were under was very great, and there was very much at stake for these believers.

Application:

The thoughts here are so important for our day today. We are living in the midst of dangerous times. There is a great increase in satanic activity, and the church is being targeted because we are the body of Christ. Now there is something here that is very alarming that we do not see on the surface, but we will see it when we do some cross referencing. Let us remember that the writer of Hebrews was inspired by the Holy Spirit as he penned this letter. So we must understand that it is the Holy Spirit who is delivering the exhortation to the Hebrews and has said, "Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

When we look at this we can understand that there are several reasons why it is important for believers to gather together under the teaching of the Word. It is here that we are encouraged, strengthened, and fed. This is all true, but there is another reason why it is VERY DANGEROUS to forsake the assembling of the saints. Let me show you the danger.

In order to see the danger we must go back to 1 Corinthians in chapter 5 where Paul is dealing with the man who was involved in immorality.

1 Corinthians 5:1, 4-5, 13

¹*It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.*

⁴*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

⁵*To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

¹³*But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

Now let me explain something here. Paul told them to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, and then in verse 13 we see that to deliver him to Satan he had to BE PUT OUT OF THE CHURCH. That means that outside the assembly he would be in the realm of Satan. This tells us that there is a **PROTECTION** for the believer inside the gathering together of the saints. When a believer pulls back or withdraws from that which God has ordained (the gathering together), he or she is exposing themselves **INTENTIONALLY** to the realm of Satan.

I have seen the results of this over and over again. People start out by attending services very regularly, and then they allow something to take them away from being in church. They begin to miss a few services here and there and then give up any responsibilities they may have had. They then drift further away, and they begin to feel as though they no longer fit in the church. Then the enemy begins to get a foot hold in their minds, and they become suspicious of other believers in the church. I know this happens because I have seen it over and over again.

They have stepped away from the gathering together of the saints and have exposed themselves to the realm and the influence of Satan. They have stepped outside the protection of the church body. Now I know there are people who would push back against this teaching, but I believe I can show you a verse to back it up. Notice the words of Jesus.

Matthew 18:20

²⁰*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Conclusion:

The writer of Hebrews gives an incentive to the Hebrew believers at the end of verse 25.

Notice Hebrews 10:25

They were to exhort one another to:

1. Draw near.
2. Hold fast.
3. Gather together.

The incentive is because the DAY was fast approaching. What does the writer refer to when he points to the DAY? Most would believe he is pointing to the return of Jesus Christ but I believe there may be something else in his mind. Let me show you something Jesus had foretold.

Matthew 24:1-2

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

² And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Jesus had foretold the destruction of the Temple. When Hebrews was written, there was less than 8 years until the fulfillment of Jesus' Words. This is probably what the writer was referring to. For those with spiritual discernment they could surely read the signs of what was going to happen to Jerusalem. The nation had refused to repent of their murder of the Messiah. They continued to sink deeper into sin, and, therefore, those who were walking with God could surely see what was happening. With that judgment fast approaching they needed to DRAW NEAR, HOLD FAST, and GATHER TOGETHER TO EXHORT ONE ANOTHER.

Application:

The parallel with our day is crystal clear!!