

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 13

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Before we get back into Hebrews 10 tonight, there are a few verses that I want to present to you.

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he exhorted him to be sure he studied the Word of God so as to be able to teach the Word in the proper context. Timothy needed to know the Word so as to be able to "rightly divide" which means "to cut straight". Let me show you how the word "divide" is used in Acts.

Acts 13:17-19

¹⁷ The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

¹⁸ And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

¹⁹ And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

When God brought Israel into the land of Canaan, He divided the land to them. Each tribe received that which God determined to give them. The idea is that to each tribe there was a portion of land which belonged only to them.

In studying the Word of God we must be very careful to be sure we see the passage in the proper context. We must understand **WHO** is being addressed, **WHAT** is going on in their lives, and we must know the **THEME/SUBJECT** of the passage. This will be very important in what we are about to look at tonight. We have been looking closely at the 4th warning, which the writer of Hebrews has presented to his readers. It is found in Hebrews 10:26-39. This is a warning given to all who were to read this letter. It is a warning against apostasy. Apostasy is the **WILLFUL** sin of walking away from Jesus Christ after the Truth

has been known/understood without ever trusting in Him as personal Savior. Now so far we have looked at several points found within this warning.

I. The Description of Apostasy

Notice Hebrews 10:26

This is a willful continual sin. The sin referenced here is not something that a person decides to step into and then later repents of, but this is a deliberate determination after knowing the Truth about Jesus Christ and then choosing to walk away without EVER accepting Him and Savior. It is what Jesus spoke of in the Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:13

¹³ *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

II. The Cost of Apostasy

Notice Hebrews 10:27

III. The Example

Notice Hebrews 10:28

IV. The Reasoning

Notice Hebrews 10:29-31

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

V. The Reflection

Notice Hebrews 10:32

Here the writer takes all of the Hebrews whom he is writing to back to prior days. Now I want to remind you that he is writing to Hebrews who profess to be TRUE believers. Some are TRUE believers, and there is the possibility that some are in the shadow of the cross but they have never made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. So the point we need to keep in mind is that he is writing to a "mixed multitude". The warning is for those in the group who are living under the shadow of the cross but have never accepted Jesus as their Savior. He not only warns those who are NOT saved but he also encourages those who are saved and are weary from the spiritual battle which they are in.

Here in Hebrews 10:32 he takes theme back to the former days when they were "illuminated". This is a reference to what the writer spoke of in 10:26.

Notice Hebrews 10:26

They had received the knowledge of the Truth. Now those who had received the knowledge of the Truth were both the believers and those who were under the shadow of the cross but had not yet made the decision to accept Jesus as Savior. Let me refresh your memory again with the words of Jesus from the Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:13

¹³ *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

So when the writer of Hebrews refers to those who were "illuminated", it covers all those who were gathered together and professed to be believers even those who were not TRULY saved. Now what we are about to see in the 10:32-37 is encouragement for those who were TRULY saved. Then in 10:38 the writer will get back to the warning in detail.

Notice Hebrews 10:32 again.

Here we are able to get a glimpse of what it cost these people to be followers of Jesus Christ. They had "endured a great fight of afflictions". This is a reference to the suffering which these Hebrews faced when they chose to step away from Judaism and to turn to Jesus Christ. He desires for them to remember how excited and determined they were as they stepped away from Judaism and stepped onto the path of following Jesus Christ.

Notice Hebrews 10:33

They had been made a "gazingstock", which means they were placed on display for many to see in the midst of their suffering. They had made it through some severe suffering, and so the writer is encouraging all of them to continue to press forward. Those who were not saved had endured the suffering because of their profession and those who were saved endured the same. If there were any who had not accepted Jesus Christ, then this was to encourage them to take the next step and accept Jesus Christ. They had been through so much already, and it would be foolish to walk away. For those who were saved, it was encouragement to hold fast to their faith and not give up.

Notice Hebrews 10:34

Here we see that those who the writer was addressing had reached out to him when at some time he had been in prison. There is something else here which we need to see. They had accepted "joyfully" the spoiling of their goods/ worldly possessions. The word "spoiling" here speaks of "taking away in a violent manner". There was a time in the lives of these people after they had stepped onto the path of following Jesus Christ in which they had faced some very violent persecution. It seems as though they had been stripped of most if not all of their worldly possessions. When this happened, they rejoiced because they understood that God had promised something far better than the goods of this world. The writer states that they knew they had in heaven a better and an enduring substance. They understood that those who belong to God have a far better inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Notice Hebrews 10:35

The word "*confidence*" here means "fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness". These Hebrews had in the beginning a fearless confidence as they stood for Jesus Christ, but as the persecution became stronger, they began to wear down. So here in this verse the writer causes them to look back and then to look forward. The writer desired that they would cast their eyes upon their eternal reward as an encouragement to continue on as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Application:

When I read this passage, I cannot help but wonder what you and I will face as we continue to follow Jesus Christ in this world. Now we do know that the rapture could happen tonight, but we must also keep in mind that Jesus may not return for several years. So we live like Jesus is going to return tonight, and we plan and prepare as if He will tarry for many years. So if Jesus tarries, then we must be prepared for what we may face on this earth as it moves toward the Tribulation. We must keep our eyes on the eternal prize. We must not allow ourselves to hold tightly to the things of this world. We must be rooted

and grounded in the Word of God, for it is from the Word that we will get our wisdom, direction, and strength. Let me show you some verses that will be of great encouragement as this world goes deeper into the darkness.

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Galatians 6:8-10

⁸ *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

⁹ *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

¹⁰ *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

Let us now get

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁶ *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*

⁷ *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,*

⁸ *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

⁹ *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

¹⁰ *When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

Notice Hebrews 10:36

Here the writer calls on these Hebrews to exercise patience. The word "patience" means "endurance". They were to "endure" the sufferings as they patiently waited for the Lord to return.

Conclusion/Application:

We do not know what tomorrow holds, but in order to be prepared, we need to exercise patience. But for some that is difficult because some people struggle with patience. So that raises a question, "How can I exercise patience when I struggle with patience?" Let me show you something that will help us all.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Here James tells us that the trying of our faith worketh PATIENCE/ENDURANCE. Now there is a key word in verse 4 which holds the key to building patience and endurance. It is the second word of the verse and it is the word "let". This is so important to see. The idea is that we are to surrender to the trials, and as we surrender, it is then that we learn to be people who are patient. So many times we desire to fight against the trials of our faith but that is not what we are to do.

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

⁷ *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*