

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 14

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Hebrews we will conclude our look at the 4th warning of this letter. The warning is found in Hebrews 10:26-39, and it is a warning against apostasy. The Holy Spirit inspired the writer of Hebrews to include this warning because there was the danger within the original recipients, as well as all others throughout the ages who would read the letter, of living under the shadow of the cross and stopping short of True salvation. That is the concern here in this text. The writer was deeply concerned that within the true believers, there were some who knew the Truth of the Gospel but had not taken the step of accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior. The sin of apostasy would bring upon the sinner the most severe degree of eternal damnation. Now, in the midst of this warning the writer also does all he can to pull those who are true believers ahead in their spiritual growth. The writer cannot know the hearts of his readers. All he knows is that there are some who are contemplating going back into Judaism due to the present persecution. He therefore is deeply concerned that possibly those who are talking of walking away were possibly never saved. I want to back up to some of what we looked at last week and begin our study tonight in Hebrews 10:35.

I. The Reflection and the Exhortation

Notice Hebrews 10:35

The word "therefore" points us back to the previous verses.

Notice Hebrews 10:32-34

Here in these verses the writer had called into their remembrance the suffering which they had endured when they first made the decision to follow Jesus Christ. Life for them at that time was certainly not easy. They were made a gazingstock, which means they were persecuted in a way that they became the "poster people" to show what happens to those who chose to identify with Jesus Christ. They had lost much of their earthly possessions in a very violent way because of their choice to follow Jesus Christ. The point was when they started this journey, they had tremendous courage. They were fearless in their stand for Christ.

Notice Hebrews 10:35 again.

Now we can understand that the writer is exhorting them to not cast away the fearless courage which they started with. He reminds them at the end of the verse that if they stand true in their fearless courage, there would be GREAT recompense of reward. The words "recompense of reward" refers to "wages paid". The idea is that if they continue to stand firm in their faith their firm stand would reap GREAT eternal dividends. Now let me take a moment and explain something here. The "fearless courage/confidence" which the writer is referring to here is one of the marks of True salvation. This is how he can state with assurance that the one who holds fast to their confidence is promised great eternal dividends. The writer spoke of this earlier in this letter.

Hebrews 3:6

⁶ *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

Hebrews 3:14

¹⁴ *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;*

Notice Hebrews 10:36

This verse is extending the thought from the previous verse. They needed to have patience/endurance after they had done the will of God. I want to raise a question here, "What is the will of God which the writer references here?" I believe it is a reference to exercising True saving faith. It is only the person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior who will receive the PROMISE. Jesus spoke of salvation as doing the will of the Father in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

So the will of the Father is for all to come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as our personal Savior.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Here we can see the will of God for every individual person. So when the writer speaks of doing the will of God, he is referencing saving faith.

Notice Hebrews 10:36 again.

After we exercise True saving faith, then we must know that there will be a need for patience/endurance. They would then receive the promise. Now the word "**promise**" here defines the "great recompense of reward" in the previous verse. The "promise" spoken of here is eternal life.

Hebrews 9:15

¹⁵*And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

Now as we move on, the writer will present to his readers the initiative of standing fast in their faith.

Notice Hebrews 10:37-38

Here the writer reaches back to the Old Testament to the book of Habakkuk. Let me show you the verses which he is pointing to.

Habakkuk 2:3-4

³*For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

⁴*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*

Now I will explain these verses in a moment, but we **MUST** see them in the context which Habakkuk recorded them. Let me walk you through some verses from Habakkuk to grasp on to the theme of the book.

Habakkuk 1:1-2

¹*The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.*

² *O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!*

³ *Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention.*

⁴ *Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.*

Habakkuk looked around in his day, and he was able to see the sin and it broke his heart. Let me show you how God responded to his question.

Habakkuk 1:6-9

⁶ *For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not their's.*

⁷ *They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.*

⁸ *Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.*

⁹ *They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.*

God explained to Habakkuk that He would deal with the sin by bringing the Babylonians who would carry Habakkuk's people into captivity. God then gave Habakkuk a command in chapter 2.

Habakkuk 2:2

² *And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

The command was to record the conversation and the warning about the invasion of the Chaldeans in a way that the person running by who was in a hurry could understand what was being said. Now let me show you the verses which the writer referenced from Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2:3

³ *For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

The invasion by the Chaldeans would come at the appointed time, and God told Habakkuk that he could be sure it would come to pass.

The Hebrews which received the letter we are studying knew that it did come to pass just as God had foretold it would. In the same way the promise of the return of Jesus Christ could also be trusted because it too will come to pass at the appointed time.

Notice Hebrews 10:37 again.

The parallel is between the invasion of the Babylonians and the return of Jesus Christ. God foretold both and the first came to pass just as He said it would. Therefore the second can be trusted just as the first. Now let me show you the next verse from Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 2:4

⁴ Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

This verse separates the believing Jew from the unbelieving Jew. There would be those in Habakkuk's day who would scoff at the warning of Habakkuk. They would be the unbelieving Jews. In their pride they would see themselves as God's people and would therefore refuse to believe that God would bring judgment upon them. The believing Jews would however believe the words of Habakkuk, and they would wait for God's Word to come to pass. They believed the warning, and they therefore prepared for the coming judgment. They lived in a way pleasing to God as they prepared for what God had foretold.

Notice Hebrews 10:38 again.

In the same way there would be two different responses among those who received the letter to the Hebrews. There would be some who refused to believe Jesus was the Messiah and that He would return in all His glory. They would also deny that God would ever bring judgment upon the Jewish people. But then there were those who did believe that Jesus was the Messiah and that He was returning again in all of His glory someday. These were the JUST, and they would live by faith. But if any man "draw back" after he had been brought to a point where he mentally understands the Truth of the Gospel, then God would find no pleasure in that person. This was the warning for the person who was living in the shadow of the cross but had never accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. To "draw back" was/is to turn from the Truth after having an understanding of it.

Notice Hebrews 10:39

Here the writer speaks to those who are True believers. He makes it very clear that the True believer would never turn away from Jesus Christ but instead is one who continues to believe unto the saving of his or her soul.

Conclusion:

What is it that keeps the True believer from apostasy? It is True saving faith that anchors the person to Jesus Christ. True saving faith is much different than mental head knowledge. One of the reasons why we face the trials of life is so that our faith will be tested, and we can know for sure that our faith is a TRUE SAVING FAITH.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

True saving faith is more precious than gold, and therefore it must be tried at times to be sure it is real and to remove the dross.

James 1:2-3

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

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