

Holding Fast

Hebrews 10:19-39

How much do we value the gift of salvation?



The Letter to the Hebrews

Written to Jewish Christians

Who seemingly got discouraged with Christianity and were tempted to return to Judaism

Perhaps the decline of Christianity in the US today is similar

Hebrews 10:19-39

19-21: Because of Jesus, we have confident access to the awesome presence of Almighty God!

22: We can come to God for forgiveness and love. So be sure to come!!

23: Keep a faithful, unwavering commitment to the Good News in Jesus Christ

24: Be determined to help others, and to be helped, on this journey of faith

26-31: Offending God while rejecting grace leads to horror

32-34: The writer is confident in their past and present faith

35-39: He gives a serious call to persevere with confidence that they will

The alternative is too awful to consider

Big Idea

The wonderful gift of eternal life in Christ demands that we have unwavering faith in Christ and His ways

Two roads, and 3 ways to live

Jesus said: "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." *Luke 13:24*

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

The writer of Hebrews...

expressed confidence in the readers' genuine faith in the free gift of life in Christ

left no doubt about how awful it will be for anyone who misses the free gift of life in Christ

So he warned them to keep following Jesus closely

Can you lose your salvation?

Not all Christians agree

My conviction: "And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." *Romans 8:30*

What is certain:

An active faith in Christ is a saving faith

An 'assurance' of salvation that leads us to take the faith lightly is not a godly assurance

Every Christian is called upon to choose to continue in faith in Christ

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. *2 Peter 1:10*

Those who receive this gift by faith must not take it lightly

Application

Hold tightly to our faith

Hold unswervingly to Christ and the Gospel

When are we at risk of drifting away?

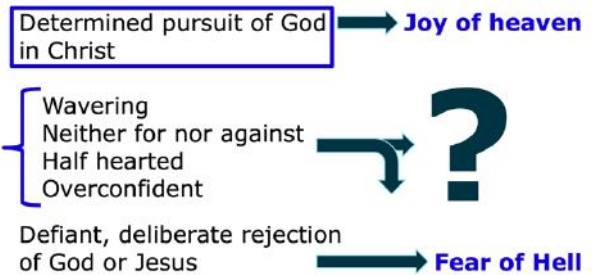
When going through a transition

In a community that doesn't value Christ

When tired, discouraged, disappointed, ...

Watch for people who are at risk and help them

When you're at risk, get closer to other Christians!



Together

Christian perseverance is a community endeavor

Command: Peer-to-peer, not pastor to people

We must each take (and make) opportunities to strengthen each other's faith in Christ

At least twice a week, intentionally be in Christian Fellowship → for you and for them

Christian fellowship

Christian fellowship is more than Christians...

in the same room together

enjoying each others' company

encouraging each other

worshiping God together

Christian fellowship also means...

Christians challenging and encouraging each other to trust and follow Jesus more

Especially when it is challenging

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. *1 John 1:3-4*

Let's pursue and remain in the joy of Christ together

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Why is it essential that Christians not give up meeting together? Why is it essential that our meeting together include challenging and encouraging each other to continue in Christ?
2. What does it look like to spur each other on to love and good deeds in Christ?
3. Who in your life is spurring you on to continue in Christ? Do you need to find more of this kind of fellowship?
4. Who are you spurring on to continue in Christ?

Conversation Starters

What is something that cost you nothing, but you value it deeply? Do you value it enough?