

Hebrews: Lesson #69: Don't Throw Away Your Confidence
Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children
For Wednesday, Jan. 21st

Read Heb. 10:19-39 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Heb. 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

Our Right to Enter the Holy of Holies

- We were studying last time about how in the Old Testament the Jews offered sacrifices at the Tabernacle, and how this was only a copy of the real Tabernacle in Heaven. We saw how Jesus went into that Heavenly Tabernacle as our High Priest with His own blood.
- Jesus was offering that blood for us. And when we become Christians Jesus pardons us from our sins.
- Do you remember that part of the Tabernacle that only the High Priest could go in, the Holy of Holies? That was the part that Jesus entered in Heaven. Did you know that we have the right to enter the Holy of Holies through His blood? Jesus' death made that possible.
- Entering the Holy of Holies means that we have the right to go before God in prayer and ask for His help and His forgiveness.

What Must Happen Before You Can Enter the Holy of Holies

- In the courtyard of the Tabernacle there was an altar that the animal sacrifices were offered on, and there was a laver (a large bowl of water). Before a priest could enter the Tabernacle he had to do two things
 1. The priest could not go into the tabernacle until he had offered a sacrifice where the animal's blood was sprinkled on the altar.
 2. The priest would then have to wash in the laver.
- Hebrews says that before we come into God's presence we must
 1. Have our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience. Jesus' blood is what cleanses our hearts from sin. But that happens when...
 2. You wash your body in water. Hebrews is talking about baptism. When we are baptized we can have a good conscience before God (I Pet. 3:21)
- When this has happened we have the right to come into God's presence.

Hold Tight to Your Wonderful Fellowship With God

- It's a wonderful blessing to be able to come into God's presence in prayer and fellowship. So we never want to turn lose of that blessing. We have to hold tight to Jesus and never give Him up.
- There are two very important things we can do to help us all keep holding on to our wonderful blessings in Jesus:
 1. We can encourage each other to love and do good works.

2. We must keep coming to church and we should encourage each other to keep being faithful to assemble and worship God.

What if We Let Go?

- What happens if we quit going to church? What happens if we quit doing good things? What happens if we quit holding on to our great blessings in Jesus?
- Once we become Christians, if we start rebelling against Jesus and sinning, there will be no sacrifice to cleanse our sin. Our sins cannot be cleansed as long as we choose to go on sinning.
- If our sins are not pardoned, we will have to face God knowing that Jesus died for us, that we became Christians, then we let go of His wonderful blessings. Judgment Day will be terrible for us.
- When people quit going to church and quit serving God, they may think it is like quitting a club, or a sport, or school, but that isn't so. We need to realize that turning away from serving God is like trampling (walking) on Jesus like He was dirt. It's like treating His blood as if it was something dirty. It is insulting to the Lord.
- Just remember, God won't just judge people in the world, He will also judge His people. It would be terrible to face God knowing we turned our backs on Jesus.

Sometimes It's Hard to Be a Christian

- When Hebrews was written, Christians had been having a hard time. Their lives had been turned upside down by persecution. People had made fun of them and insulted them. Some of them had been imprisoned. Others had their possessions taken from them.
- Sometimes after people go through troubles they start questioning whether serving the Lord is really worth it. Some of the people back then were tempted to just give up and quit living their lives for Jesus.
- But the writer of Hebrews warned them not to throw away what they had in Christ. In time God would reward them for serving Him faithfully.
- They needed to keep on going, keep enduring and not give up. God won't be pleased with us if we give up.
- They must not lose their faith. We must have the kind of faith that helps us keep our souls saved.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

We Have the Right to Enter God's Presence

10:19 Since the one time sacrifice of Jesus is always effective for us, we can have the freedom to enter the Holy of Holies through His blood.

20 We have the freedom and boldness to enter the Holy of Holies because Jesus made a new and living way for us to enter through the veil. But the real veil is His own flesh.

21-22 And since we have Him as our Great High Priest over God's House, let us come into the Holy of Holies and draw near the presence of God. But come with your heart sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and your bodies washed in pure water.

Hold On Tight to What We've Confessed About Jesus

23 Let's hold on tight to what we have confessed about our hope and don't turn loose and fall back. Remember, God will be faithful to keep His promises.

24 And let's think about how to prod each other to love and do good works.

25 Let's not neglect or abandon coming together in our assembly as the habit of some. Instead encourage and admonish each other, and do it even more as you see the day drawing near.

What If We Give Up and Let Go?

26 Once we have received the knowledge of the truth, and then deliberately chose to habitually sin, there aren't any more sacrifices for sin.

27 All that is left for a person in that condition is a terrifying expectation and the fear of waiting for judgment and for the flaming zealous fire that will consume those who live in opposition to God and His will.

28 Anyone who ever set aside the Law of Moses died without mercy if two or three witnesses could establish that person's guilt.

29 How much worse would the punishment be for anyone who has trampled under foot the Son of God, who has treated the blood of the Covenant like it was something unclean to be avoided (the same blood that once sanctified them), insulting the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And He also said, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 What a terrifying thing, to fall into the hands of the living God.

Remember How You've Sacrificed for the Lord

32-34 But think back and remember the earlier days when, after you had been enlightened. Remember how you held up through many difficult struggles in which you suffered greatly because you were being criticized, disgraced and oppressed before everyone's eyes.

And some suffering came on you just because you were in fellowship with those who also had their lives turned upside down in persecution. Such suffering happened when you showed sympathy for those who had been imprisoned for the cause of Christ. And when they came and took away your possessions, you joyfully let them do it because you knew you had greater possessions that would really last.

Don't Throw Away Your Right to Enter God's Presence

35 I told you before that you have the freedom to go and speak with God in the Holy of Holies. You have the right to enter because of the blood of Jesus Christ. So don't throw away that freedom, for it will repay you greatly.

36 What you need is an endurance that will help you go on doing what God wants you to do. Then you can receive what was promised.

37 For however much or little time it takes, He who is coming will still come without delay.

38 But while we wait, it is as the Scripture said, "The righteous shall live by faith", but if they draw back, My soul will find nothing pleasing in them.

39 But we are not one of those who draw back into destruction, rather we have the kind of faith that keeps possession our souls.