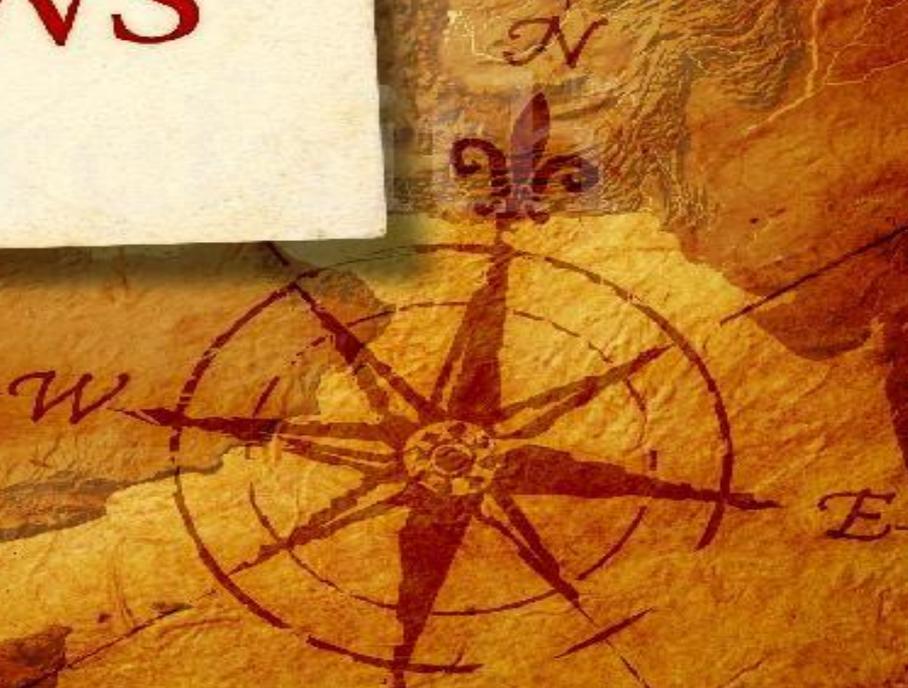


The Letter to the
Hebrews

Chapter 10



The Book of Hebrews: Outline

- Theme: The **Superiority** of Christ!
 - Superior to angels **1:1–2:4**
 - Superior as a Redeemer **2:5 – 2:18**
 - Superior to Moses **3:1 – 4:13**
 - Superior to Aaron **4:14 – 5:10**
 - Warnings of apostasy **5:11 – 6:20**
 - Jesus, Priest forever **7:1 – 7:28**
 - Better covenant & tabernacle **8:1 – 9:12**
 - Better Sacrifice **9:13 – 10:18**
 - Better life **10:19 – 13:25**

The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

- Key warnings in the epistle:
 - 1) Against Drifting **2:1-4**
 - 2) Against Departing **3:12-15**
 - 3) Against Disobedience **4:11-13**
 - 4) Against Dullness **5:11 – 6:6**
 - 5) Against Despising **10:26-39**
 - 6) Against Defying **12:14-29**

The Book of Hebrews: Outline

- **Contrasts made in the epistle:**
 - The Son / Angels **1:4 – 2:4**
 - The Son / Moses **3:1-6**
 - Canaan rest / God's rest **3:12 – 4:13**
 - Christ / Aaron **4:14 – 5:10**
 - Spiritual infancy / maturity **5:11-14**
 - Apostasy / Faithfulness **5:11 – 6:20**
 - Old Law / New Law **8:1-13**
 - Offerings of old law / Christ **9:1 – 10:18**
 - Faith / sight **11:1-40**
 - Mt. Sinai / Mt. Zion **12:18-29**

The Book of Hebrews: Outline

▪ Exhortations in the Epistle:

- **Let us** fear **4:1**
- **Let us** therefore give diligence **4:11**
- **Let us** hold fast our confession **4:14; 10:23**
- **Let us** draw near ... to the throne of grace **4:16**
- **Let us** press on to perfection **6:1**
- **Let us** draw near **10:22**
- **Let us** hold fast **10:23**
- **Let us** consider one another **10:24**
- **Let us** ... lay aside every weight **12:1**
- **Let us** run the race **12:1**
- **Let us** have grace **12:28**
- **Let us** therefore go forth unto Him **13:13**
- **Let us** offer up sacrifice of praise **13:15**

Hebrews 10

- **The main points of this chapter:**
 - The superiority of Christ's sacrifice **(10:1-18)**
 - Exhortation to draw near and hold fast **(10:19-25)**
 - A warning against despising God's grace with willful sin **(10:26-39)**
- **Why were animal sacrifices insufficient?**
 - They did not make one perfect, because they could not take away sins **(10:1-4)**

Hebrews 10

- This passage does not say that God remembered the sins from year to year – rather, the worshippers remembered their sins!
- The sacrifices reminded them of their sins and did not cleanse their consciences.
 - *“According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper” (Hebrews 9:9)*

Hebrews 10

- Therefore, according to verse 4, the worshipers knew that it was impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
- The law of Moses was a shadow of a coming sacrifice that would take away sins.
- If the law of Moses could take away sins and cleanse the consciences of the worshipers, then the sacrifices would still be offered.

Hebrews 10

- The writer now proves the point that sacrifices were insufficient to deal with removing our sins.
 - The illustration comes from Jesus and the quotation of O.T. scripture – vs 5-7 are a quotation from Psalm 40:6-8.
 - Rather than quoting these words and attributing them to David, the writer of Hebrews attributes the words as spoken by Christ, a conversation between Christ and Father.
 - The Father did not want more animal sacrifices and offerings.
 - The answer was in the body prepared for Christ.

Hebrews 10

- **In coming to do the will of God, what has Jesus done? (10:9)**
 - He took away the first (covenant) that He may establish the second (covenant)
- **What distinguishes Christ's sacrifices from those of the O.T. priests? (10:11-14)**
 - He offered one sacrifice for all time, capable of perfecting those being sanctified

Hebrews 10

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God ...

Hebrews 10

- **Three-fold exhortation based on what Jesus has done: (10:22-24)**
 1. **Let us** draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith
 2. **Let us** hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering
 3. **Let us** consider how to stir up one another to love and good works

Hebrews 10

- not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. **(ESV)**
- not staying away from our *worship* meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **(CSB)**
- not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **(NASB)**
- not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **(NKJV)**
- not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **(NRSV)**
- And let us not hold aloof from our church meetings, as some do. Let us do all we can to help one another's faith, and this the more earnestly as we see the final day drawing ever nearer. **(Phillips)**

Forsaking the Assembly

“Apparently some members of the Hebrew congregation to whom the epistle originally was addressed showed a disregard for attending the religious services. They did so willfully by deserting the “communion of the saints.” From sources dating from the first century of the Christian era, we learn that a lack of interest in the worship services was rather common. The Didache, a church manual of religious instruction from the latter part of the first century, gives this exhortation: “But be frequently gathered together seeking the things which are profitable for your souls.”

William Hendrikson, *Baker's N.T. Commentary*

Forsaking the Assembly

“Love for others cannot be shown in separation. In none of their affairs, and especially in spiritual matters, can Christians regard themselves as isolated digits. Thus they must not fail to meet together for worship and mutual encouragement The thought is not so much that they were to encourage one another to meet together, but that they were to meet together where such encouragement was available in the assembly. A chief function of public worship, according to Paul, is the edification of all who come together (1 Cor. 14:26ff.). But how can [people] be edified when they absent themselves from the assembly?”

Lightfoot, p. 191

Forsaking the Assembly

Does the New Testament teach that Christians must be present at every meeting of the church?

- “*not forsaking*” – “The words contain an enforcement of the preceding exhortation” (John Owen, *Exposition of Hebrews*, p. 520).
- “*Forsaking*” is a present tense form, hence denotes a practice that is repeated.
- The phraseology does not describe, as some have argued, a once-and-for-all-time abandonment of the faith.
- Rather, it depicted what had become a customary habit into which some of the Hebrew saints had fallen – which could lead to total apostasy, if correction was not made.

Forsaking the Assembly

There are various extremes with reference to church attendance.

- Some appear close to contending that one may not be absent from any congregational meeting unless he virtually is on his deathbed.
- Others – this is far more common – allege that corporate worship is entirely optional (except, perhaps, for a Lord's day morning service), and so one may do as he/she pleases for any preferential distraction.

The truth is somewhere between these extremes!

Forsaking the Assembly

To argue, as some occasionally do, “Prove to me that I must attend the Bible classes, or on Sunday night,” reveals a pitifully blighted condition of soul. Where else would a spiritually minded person want to be if he/she is able?

- We are, as members, on our honor to do the best that we can in our service to the Master.
- **Flagrant, sustained truancy is another issue altogether.**
- Such certainly could become quite possibly a disciplinary matter.

Hebrews 10

What is meant by “*sinning deliberately [willfully],*” and what is the consequence of doing so? (10:26-27)

- To knowingly persist in sin (i.e., presumptuous, rebellious sin)
- No sacrifice for sin, certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation

Hebrews 10

- *For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth* **(NRSV)**
- *If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth* **(NIV; NET)**
- *Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth* **(NLT)**

Hebrews 10

Of what is one guilty when they persist in sin?

Why should this cause one to be afraid? (10:29-31)

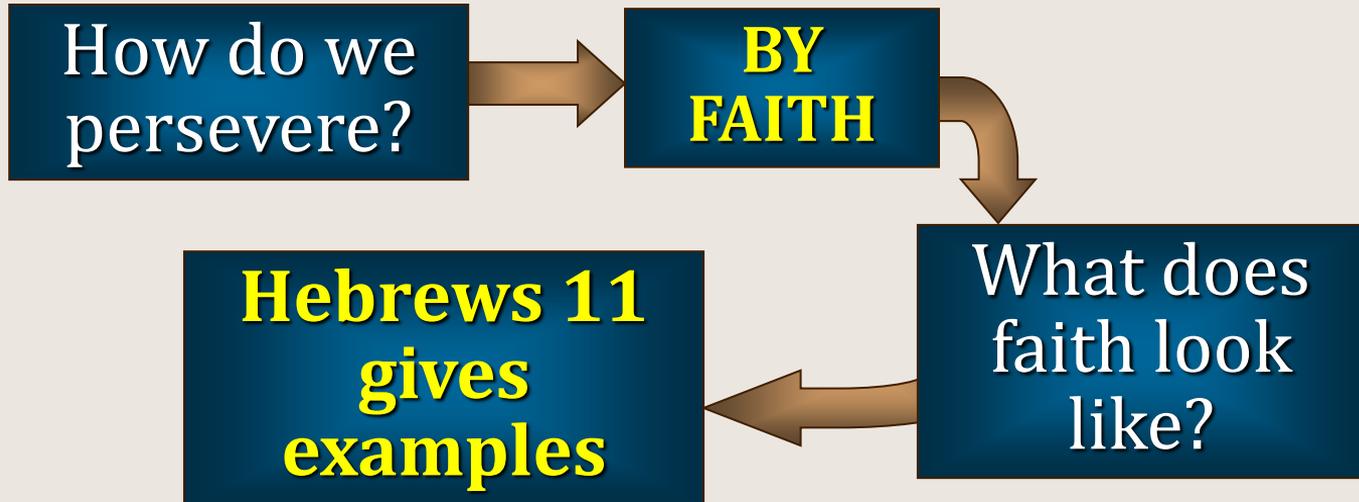
- Trampling the Son of God underfoot, counting the blood by which one is sanctified a common thing, insulting the Spirit of grace
- God will judge His people, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God

What three things do we need in order to receive the promise of God?

32 *But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, **33** sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. **34** For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **35** Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. **37** For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; **38** but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (ESV)*

Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.



The Letter to the
Hebrews

Chapter 11

