



Are You Ready To Run? The Race Marked Out

Hebrews 10:19-39

A Winning Strategy

October 26, 2014

MEMORY VERSE:

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV-2011)

OVERVIEW

Jesus, our high Priest, offering His blood as atonement for our sins, has made it possible for us to be confident in our communion with God. On the basis of Christ work we have a responsibility to live out our commitment in faith, hope and love. This is to be done in the context of a faithful community, who gathers regularly and encourages one another.

Mercy and grace is extended to all who come through the sacrifice of Jesus. Failure to respond appropriately to God’s offer is to “*fall into the hands of the living God*”. Our perseverance will be richly rewarded.

NEXT WEEK:

Hebrews 11 - 12:2

“The Greatest Pre-Game Speech”

SERMON NOTES: Hebrews 10:19-39

Question: “If what we said about Jesus is true, how should we respond?”

Hebrews 10:19–39 (NIV84) 19 Therefore, **brothers**, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by **the blood of Jesus**, **20** by **a new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have **a great priest** over the house of God,

KEEP IN MIND THAT JESUS IS THE BASIS OF OUR CONFIDENCE

- We are adopted into a new family (cf. 2:11)
- Jesus, the superior offering, removed sin’s penalty
- Jesus, the mediator of a superior covenant, provides access to the Father
- Jesus, a superior priest, intercedes for us

22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess**, for he who promised is faithful. **24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, **but let us encourage one another—**and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORK OF JESUS CALLS FOR POSITIVE ACTION

- Draw near to God with a new heart and full assurance
- Never let go of God’s promises
- Become a Love Machine
- Be a Season Ticket Holder

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted**

the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” **31** **It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

REALIZE THAT IGNORING THE WORK OF JESUS HAS DIRE CONSEQUENCES

- If we disregard His offer, then we remain slaves to sin
- If we disregard His offer, then a dreadful judgment awaits us. Why?
 - Jesus is disregarded
 - Jesus’ sacrifice is treated with disrespect
 - Jesus, the Spirit of grace, is insulted

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. **33** Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. **34** You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. **36** You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **37** For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay. **38** But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” **39** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER QUIT

- In the face of suffering; yours and others
- Hold loosely the things of this world
- The reward is sure

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Hebrews 10:19-39

OPENING

- As a child growing up, we all were disciplined at one time or another. The approach our parents took may or may not have had its desired effect. Did your behavior change when correction came via “words of encouragement”, or did it take “words of warning”?

If you have children, did they respond differently to “words of encouragement”, or to “words of warning”?

Care to share a story? 😊

GOING DEEPER

- Hebrews 10:19-39 provide positive and negative reinforcement. Review the positive calls for action in verses 22-25. Note the emphasis is on the church as a whole. The positive side of peer pressure is underscored. How would you rate yourself in light of these challenges? Discuss why the church seems to have lost sight of its mission? Share a few ideas on how this can be addressed. (Send these ideas along to Pastor Bruce!)
- A shift in tone takes place from verses 26-31. God is presented in a very different way from verses 19-21. How do you reconcile these two sides of God? Discuss why it is “*a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*”?

CHALLENGE

- The “confidence” we have received from Jesus must not be thrown away (vs. 35). We are told “*it will be richly rewarded*”. In verses 35-39, a comparison is made between those who shrink back from doing the will of God and those who have not. How do these words challenge or affirm your walk with God?