

## THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH (UNTO THE SAVING OF OUR SOULS)

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### HEBREWS 10:19-39

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 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. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

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Our passage of Scripture for today starts out "therefore brethren." That means of course that there's something said before that in which the writer is referring. Prior then to verses **19-39** in **Hebrews 10** the writer explains that the sacrifices of animals by the Jews in the Old Testament were not THE perfect sacrifice but only an image of the good things to come which is through Christ Jesus our Lord!" Previously then it is explained that, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin [God] did not desire, nor had

pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), then [Jesus] said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first [our sins] that He may establish the second [the law]. By that, will we have been sanctified [which is us being set apart in God's holiness] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (vs. **8-10**) The writer continues saying, "And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool [we are waiting for that too, for the enemy of our souls is alive and active]. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." One sacrifice for sins, forever! And the law was not abolished or done away with, it was established through the perfect sacrifice. The law reveals our sinfulness. The law reveals the need for a Savior. Only Christ Jesus could satisfy the requirement of the law of God by being "the righteous requirement of the law" as the Apostle Paul explained in **Romans 8:14**. Where we are headed in this message, which is our calling from God, is that "the just shall live by faith" UNTO the saving of our souls. Jesus paid the righteous requirement of the law, taking our sins upon Himself, now we are called to live in His Holiness, His Righteousness. We are to follow Jesus, in faith, unto the saving of our souls. Not to believe and then walk away. The devil himself saw the Son of God hanging on the cross and then dying. Satan now knows as we do that Jesus died on the cross for all of mankind's sins. Yet he is not converted, he is not saved. His belief is but in the knowledge of what has transpired. The same can be said of us. We can believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins but not be saved.

Jesus said in **John 3:16-17** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Yet then He said, "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." When we come to Jesus, who IS the Light of the World, we are to remain in the Light. His light then shines out to those around us and it also reveals the areas of darkness that God wants to remove and replace with His light. Hence the term repentance. To have a change of mind to follow the Light, that is Jesus, which leads to life eternal, and no longer follow after sin, which leads to death.

The Apostle Peter said in **Acts 3:19**, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." **Romans 10:9-10** says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." There is a process in our salvation. Yes, Jesus died for our sins, once and for all, yet we are to continue in that faith, confessing unto salvation and believing unto righteousness. Remember His Word earlier says we are being sanctified. It is in Christ Jesus that we are saved, and sanctified, and when we see Jesus, we will be made like Him (**1 John 3:2**)

Yes, Jesus died on the cross for our sins to give eternal life to all who will believe. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and we are given His Righteousness. Yet we must be converted. We must be "born again" as Jesus explained to the Jewish ruler Nicodemus. Born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord (**Romans 6:11**) In **verse 23** of our passage of Scripture today in Hebrews 10 says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." One may say, to justify one's continual sins, "Oh I'm still believing Jesus is going to save me. Jesus died on the cross for all of my sins, past, present, and future." This is what Satan, the father of all lies is good at, getting us to grab onto a partial truth, taking the Word of God out of context and leading God's people unto their own destruction. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (**verses 26-29**)

Earlier in the book of Hebrews the writer explains the comparison of the disobedience of the Israelites to those who are disobedient to God in their faith in Jesus. "[E]xhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ **if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end**, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." [**Psalms 95:7-8**] For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that

they would not enter His rest, but to **those who did not obey**? So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief**." See how obedience is tied to belief, to faith. To continue to practice sin after acknowledging that Jesus died on the cross for your sin is an act of rebellion and a trampling on the grace and goodness of God.

This part of the message IS for all of us, to remind us and to help us realize and understand that God has not changed from the time of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to the time of the Israelites being led in the wilderness for 40 years, to the time of the Jews being taken into captivity by the Assyrians, then the Chaldeans, and Greeks, or in the days of Jesus during Roman rule, to the time of the early church fathers of Peter, Paul, John and the others, to the time of the Reformation with Martin Luther, to the time that we are in now. God hates sin and He will not tolerate His children continuing in practicing sin. There is for the one who continues practicing sin a "fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries." And if someone is continuing in practicing sin and does not have the fear of the Lord upon them, then woe unto them. In the words of Jesus, "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." In the parable of the talents, where God (represented as a man in this parable) had given to each of His servants so many talents. The unprofitable servant who basically took for granted the grace of God, trampled on the grace of God, continued to just do what he wanted to do and buried his talent, never allowed his talent to grow, God then calls that unprofitable servant a wicked and lazy servant and "cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. [Where] there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

God cannot be mocked without enacting His vengeance, without Him having to execute His judgment. Yes, we are under grace, but if we trample on His grace He will first try to correct us. Yes, this is a harsh message to those who refuse to repent of their sins. Later in **Hebrews 12:5-6** it says, "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."" I've heard it said many times, "I try to get right with God, to do the right things, and then shortly after that my life turns into a living hell." Or something similar to that. Yes, there is an enemy of our souls! The fight is real, the struggle is real, and the enemy that wants to "steal, kill, and destroy" anything of God is real. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (**Ephesians 6:12**) But we can't blame the enemy of our souls with our continuing in sin. Listening to the enemy of our souls will lead us to a "fearful expectation of judgment" to where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

For anyone who is listening today, who is thinking, why is he beating us up with this message, that is not my intention to beat up on the obedient children of God. Just as Paul would say to those he was speaking to in His letters, I say to those listening today. I have a grave concern, I am deeply worried about some of the folks we encounter out here. I am brought to weeping and pleading with the Lord for His mercies and goodness to bring forth repentance (**Romans 2:4**). There are some who are making a mockery of the things of God and are thusly trampling over the grace of God. God will not be mocked. Please, I beg each of you to find God's grace in the Lord Jesus Christ and remain there. In our Scripture today he continues by saying, "But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with **sufferings**: partly while you were made a spectacle both by **reproaches** and **tribulations**, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the **plundering of your goods**, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has **great reward**. For you have need of endurance, so that **after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise**: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. **Now the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

My brothers and sisters in Christ, please be praying with us for those who are in bondage to their own sin, to those who may think that they are saved but are continuing to practice sin. Jesus said "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Let us continue to pray for God's mercy to bring those who are lost to repentance. We are truly all in this together. WE are the body of Christ. Let us continue to love one another, forgive one another, pray for one another, your reward will be waiting for you. Just picture Jesus standing on the right hand of the Father waiting for you with a big bundle of treasure and blessings." Yet, my hope and hopefully your hope is in not wanting the reward that Jesus is waiting to give you, as much as that you look forward to, as I do, rushing into the arms Jesus, saying, "My Lord!" and to be before the throne of God as it says in **Revelation 19:1**, "I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!" Yes, Lord I want to be in that number!

There are clues in the book of Hebrews that suggest that it was Paul who was the author of this book. He talks of his chains and mentions Timothy (who was his spiritual son), as well as other things. Whether or not Paul wrote Hebrews or not cannot be proven one way or the other. But Paul in encouraging the people of Philippi said in **Philippians 3:12**, "Not that I have already attained, or am already

perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." Similarly, in **Hebrews 12:1-2** it says, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." God desires for none of His to perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). May we all continue to encourage, uplift, and exhort one another, in love, until we all see Jesus. "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (**1 John 3:2**)