

Lesson 9

The Faithful One

Hebrews 10:19-39

The author of Hebrews has been teaching us foundational truths about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Now, he shifts and begins to teach us how we can respond to these truths. As we hear the words of the author, may they be an invitation to engage with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. These are not rules to be followed so that we might be found more lovely in the sight of God. Jesus has done it all. Now, He invites us to draw near to Him in response.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”

Hebrews 10:23

Read Hebrews 10:19-39.

A Quick Recap

Focus on Hebrews 10:19-22, which serve as a reminder of some of what we’ve learned so far in our study of Hebrews. Look back over the past lessons or scan through the different chapters of Hebrews as you answer the following questions.

1. Hebrews 10:19 reminds us that we have confidence to enter the Holy Place (the Holy of Holies) by the blood of Jesus. What did the shedding of Jesus’ blood accomplish that gives us access to God’s Presence? (Lesson 8 / Hebrews 10:10)

2. Hebrews 10:20 tells us that we enter that Most Holy Place by “a new and living way.” What is the significance of the veil mentioned in this verse? (Lesson 4 / Hebrews 6:19-20 and 9:12)
 - ❖ What is the “new and living way” into the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 10:20)?

 - ❖ How does John 14:6 relate to Jesus’ flesh being our new and living way into the Most Holy Place?

3. Hebrews 10:21-22 reminds us that Jesus is our Great High Priest and concludes these reminders with an exhortation.

- ❖ What does the author of the letter to the Hebrews encourage the people to do?
- ❖ The reference to our hearts being “sprinkled clean from an evil conscience” and “our bodies washed with pure water” is another allusion to the sacrificial ceremonies of the Old Covenant. See Hebrews 7:23-28 and 9:11-15, how are our hearts cleansed?
- ❖ How does Christ wash us according to Ephesians 5:25-27 and Titus 3:5-7?

Holding Fast to His Faithfulness

Read Hebrews 10:23-25.

4. From Hebrews 10:23, why can we “hold fast the confession of our hope”?
5. First Thessalonians 5:23-24 contains a similar reminder of God’s faithfulness. From these verses, what is one thing that the Lord is faithful to do?
6. From Hebrews 10:23-25, what are some things we can do as we “see the day drawing near”?

Hebrews 10:25 says that we should do these things “all the more as [we] see the day drawing near.” The author is speaking again of the day of the Lord – the day that Jesus “will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Hebrews 9:28).

7. Read about “the day of the Lord” in 2 Peter 3:3-13.
 - ❖ In 2 Peter 3:3-4, what will the mockers say that may discourage people who are waiting for the day of the Lord?
 - ❖ From 2 Peter 3:7 and 3:9, what is the real reason that the day has not yet come? How is the Lord described?
 - ❖ Even though many signs of the day of the Lord are intense and could be frightening, how are we to look forward to it according to 2 Peter 3:12 and 1 Corinthians 1:7?

- ❖ What are we waiting for according to 2 Peter 3:13?
8. Acts 1 tells the story of the disciples waiting for another of God's promises – the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come in John 14:16-17 and Acts 1:5.
- ❖ What did Jesus command the disciples to do in Acts 1:4-5?
 - ❖ How did the disciples obey Him in Acts 1:12-14?
 - ❖ What was the result in Acts 2:1-4?
9. How does God's faithfulness in sending the Holy Spirit reassure you as you wait for the fulfillment of His future promises? Can you think of other promises God made in His Word that He has already fulfilled?

The Judgment of God

Another warning is found in Hebrews 10:26-31. Again, this warning is likely directed at people living among the believers who had not yet accepted and received God's gift of salvation through the blood of Christ.

Read Hebrews 10:26-31.

10. From Hebrews 10:26, why would there no longer be a sacrifice for sins? From 10:27, what would remain?
11. In Hebrews 10:27, judgment is said to be expected for "the enemies (or adversaries)" of God. How do Romans 5:1-2 and 5:10-11 describe believers in relation to God? What does that suggest to you about the "enemies" of Hebrews 10:27?
12. How do Romans 6:1-7 (especially verse 7) and 8:1-2 describe believers' relation to sin?

13. Paul, who was radically converted and clearly saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 9), describes his own struggle with sin in Romans 7:15-8:1. What do his words suggest about believers and sinful behavior? What is our hope according to Romans 7:25 and 8:1?
14. Considering these teachings of Paul, what do you think the author of Hebrews means when he says “go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of truth” (Hebrews 10:26)?
15. What have the people doomed for punishment done according to Hebrews 10:29?
- ❖ Read Mark 3:28-30. What is the state of the one who “blasphemes against Holy Spirit”? (The verb tense differs significantly from the NASB to the NIV translation of the Bible. Read the NASB translation of Mark 3:29 in the margin to answer this question.)
 - ❖ Look back at Mark 3:20-22 to get an idea of what is going on in this story. What were the people saying according Mark 3:30?
 - ❖ In this passage in Mark, Jesus is near His home in Galilee. From Luke 4:14, in whose power did Jesus return to Galilee?
 - ❖ What do you learn from these verses about the relationship between blaspheming against the Spirit and rejecting the Son of God? Do you think those who blaspheme against the Spirit have accepted the salvation of the Son of God?
 - ❖ What does Acts 4:12 tell you about a plan for salvation for people who have rejected the Son of God?
 - ❖ What does Mark 3:28 tell you about the sins that will be forgiven if we *do* receive Christ’s gift of salvation?

“...but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin...”

Mark 3:29 (NASB)

16. Consider Hebrews 10:30-31. Verse 31 states: “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of living God.” Anticipating God’s judgment of sin should terrify the sinner. Who will be our judge according to Hebrews 10:30 and John 5:22-24?
- ❖ How does God feel about people who perish according to 2 Peter 3:9? What would He prefer to happen?
 - ❖ Why do those who believe not need to be terrified of judgment (John 5:24 and Romans 8:1)?
17. Believers don’t need to fear judgment, but even those who have received the salvation of Christ are told to “fear God” throughout the Bible. From the following verses, what do you learn about having a holy fear of the Lord?
- ❖ Proverbs 14:26
 - ❖ Proverbs 15:33
 - ❖ Proverbs 19:23
 - ❖ Proverbs 31:30
 - ❖ Acts 9:31

Remember God’s Faithfulness

Hebrews 10 closes with an exhortation to believers to both remember and to look ahead as we hold fast to our hope in Christ.

Read Hebrews 10:32-39.

18. From Hebrews 10:32-34, what were the recipients encouraged to remember?
19. How had they responded to their trials?
20. In Romans 5:1-5, how are tribulations and hope related?

21. In Hebrews 10:34b-36, what are the recipients encouraged to look ahead to?
- ❖ What was promised in Hebrews 9:15?
 - ❖ Describe our inheritance from 1 Peter 1:3-5.
22. In Hebrews 10:37-38, the author is quoting Habakkuk 2:3-4 from the Old Testament. Why should we look ahead?
- ❖ Who is coming? See Revelation 22:20.
23. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ (if you aren't sure, turn to Appendix I)? If so, what is the result of your faith according to Hebrews 10:39?

Prepare for Life Question:

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

24. The author of Hebrews encouraged the recipients to look back on their lives and to look forward to what God had promised.
- ❖ Looking back over your life, what are some ways you can see the Lord's faithfulness?
 - ❖ What promises do you see in His Word that you can look forward to?

Lecture Notes:
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