

14: Living Like He's Returning (Heb 10:24-39)

What would our world be like if everyone who called Jesus "Lord" started living like He was returning? Today we discover the hope for those who do, and the warning for those who don't.



teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

Catch the Context

The Old Covenant sacrifices were so bloody because SIN brings DEATH, destroying the body, soul, relationships between God & people. While the substitutionary sacrifices of animals temporarily covered the sin of God's people, we have learned that it is impossible for animals to take away our sins for all time (Heb 10:4). These were shadowy substitutes that pointed to our Perfect, Permanent High Priest - Who offered Himself making full payment for our sin!

Hebrews 10:21-23 and since we have a Great High Priest over the house of God, let us **draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us **hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering**, since He who promised is faithful.

Those who TURN from sin and TRUST in Jesus are *FULLY FORGIVEN!* We have the victory in Jesus, but the race is not yet over. We must encourage one another to keep running until the end.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to **provoke love and good works**, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging each other**, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

This is what we MUST DO.

We are to **provoke love and good works** [other translations use "stir up" (ESV), "spur on" (NET, NIV), or "motivate" (NLT)]. How are YOU modeling and motivating others to love and serve? Don't know HOW? Hang out with believers who do and then copy them!

This is what we MUST NOT DO.

We must not stop **gathering together, as some are in the habit of doing**. This was a danger for the ancient audience facing persecution. But some of us ARE getting into a habit of neglecting to gather together for different reasons.

- **We get lazy** and rather stay home and relax. Let's quit making excuses and start prioritizing meeting with our Church family.
 - **We get hurt** and it's easier to run rather than work to reconcile relationships. But that's not how a FAMILY should act! Sometimes families fight, but families should make things right!
 - **We get distracted** and rather do something else with our time (e.g. beach, fishing, ballgames).
- ② What are we teaching OUR KIDS? ...that Church isn't VITAL, it's VOLUNTARY; that Church isn't a family gathering, it's a weekend event...that isn't nearly as exciting as the other weekend events.

If we're GONE more than we're with our local church, something is WRONG. We need each other!

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

Instead of neglecting one another, we should be **encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching**. That's the day that Jesus returns "to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him" (Heb 9:28). People who actually believe Jesus will return should ACT like they believe Jesus is returning.

BIG QUESTION: Are we LIVING like He's RETURNING?

What if everyone who calls Jesus "Lord" started living like He was returning?

- ✓ Would we LOVE more graciously than we do now? Wouldn't we be more likely to love the unlovable, even forgiving our enemies? And how about how we love one another?
- ✓ Would we SERVE more purposefully than we do now? Wouldn't we take the time out of our schedules to serve others rather than just serving ourselves.
- ✓ Would we OBEY more passionately than we do now? Obeying Jesus is much easier if we actually believe He sees all we do! If we really believed that Jesus was returning THIS WEEK, our daily decisions would be much more focused on obedience and purity.

What about those who claim Jesus who AREN'T living like He's returning?

Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire about to consume the adversaries.

Where did we come up with the idea that we can pray a prayer, be forgiven, and then live like Jesus ISN'T returning - living in sin yet thinking we're forgiven? That concept didn't come from Jesus.

Luke 12:35-38 Be ready for service and have your lamps lit. **You are to be like people waiting for their master to return** from the wedding banquet so that when he comes and knocks, they can open the door for him at once. **Blessed will be those servants the master finds alert when he comes.** Truly I tell you, he will get ready, have them recline at the table, then come and serve them. If he comes in the middle of the night, or even near dawn, and finds them alert, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:43-46 **Blessed is that servant whom the master finds doing his job when he comes.** Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and starts to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, that servant's master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unfaithful.**

The one who claims to be a servant who isn't living like the Master is returning is going to be treated like an enemy when He returns. And that comes from the mouth of...JESUS!

Disobeying the Law of Moses vs. Disobeying the Son of God

Hebrews 10:28-31 Anyone who disregarded the law of Moses died without mercy, based on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve who has trampled on the Son of God,** who has regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know the one who has said, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, and again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Does that SCARE us...or have we somehow lost the FEAR of God? Knowing that the Righteous Judge gave Jesus to pay the full payment for our sins should drive us to **bask in God's grace** rather than *taking His grace for granted!*

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

The eternal prize of following Jesus is worth the temporary price it costs

Hebrews 10:32-34 Remember the earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to taunts and afflictions, and at other times you were companions of those who were treated that way. For you sympathized with the prisoners and accepted with joy the confiscation of your possessions, because **you know that you yourselves have a better and enduring possession.**

These early believers stayed in the race because they KNEW they had **a better and enduring possession** at the finish line - eternal life with our Eternal God! With our eyes on *THAT PRIZE*, we can run the race even when it's difficult - because the difficulty is temporary while the prize is ETERNAL!

Hebrews 10:35-39 So don't throw away your confidence, which has **a great reward**. For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, **you may receive what was promised**. For *yet in a very little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith; and if he draws back, I have no pleasure in him. But we are not those who draw back and are destroyed, but those who have faith and are saved.*

Stay in the race & encourage others running beside you! Remember what and WHO awaits you at the finish line! We **live by faith** - trusting Who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He WILL do!

BIG QUESTION: Am I LIVING like He's RETURNING?

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!