Passage: Hebrews 10:19-25

Title: Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25)

Summary: After nearly ten chapters of all that God is and all that God has done for us, we now begin in our study of this epistle, how we should respond to so great a salvation. We would think it be something complicated and extensive, but our Lord keeps it simple, in fact just 3 things..... but He wants us to be very purposeful and intentional regarding them. Join us as God opens His Word, and thus His heart, to us yet again.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² **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. ²³ **Let us** hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And **let us** consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

Philip said to Jesus "show us the Father", to which Jesus said "He who has seen Me, has seen the Father". What an amazing journey we have been on in the last 4 months, We have seen the heart of God, the very heart of God towards us who believe, and His great love for us. We have been created to "See God", and meet with Him, for intimacy and oneness. Let's recap where we have been and "All that we have Seen" regarding our God.

John 14:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

addressed to Hebrew Believers / pulled back into Judaism / losing focus

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

about the superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Better

The word *better* is used thirteen times in this book as the writer shows the superiority of Jesus Christ and His salvation over the Hebrew system of religion. Christ is "better than the angels" (Heb. 1:4). He brought in "a better hope" (Heb. 7: 19) because He is the Mediator of "a better covenant, which was established on better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

Perfect

Another word that is repeated in this book is perfect; in the original Greek it is used fourteen times. It means a perfect standing before God. This perfection could never be accomplished by the levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:11) or by the Law (Heb. 7:19), nor could the blood of animal sacrifices achieve it (Heb, 10:1). Jesus Christ gave Himself as one offering for sin, and by this He has "perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Heb. 10:14).

Eternal

Eternal / Forever a third word that is important to the message of Hebrews (eternal 5 times / forever 9 times) - . Christ is the "author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9). Through His death, He "obtained eternal redemption" (Heb. 9: 12) and He shares with believers "the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb. 9:15). 'His throne is forever (Heb. 1:8) and He is a priest forever (Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21). "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

Combine all 3

When you combine these three important words, you discover that Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us a perfect standing before God. The religious system under the Mosaic Law was imperfect because it could not accomplish a once-for-all redemption that was eternal.

History / His-story / weaves / from the foundations - cross - right hand

This Bible is more than a history book, it is His-story, and every book in the Bible points to Christ; but no single book so wonderfully weaves the whole Bible together as the Book of Hebrews does. From Genesis through Revelation, 66 books, by 40 different authors, no book better weaves the whole picture together like Hebrews does. We will see Jesus from the foundations of the world, to the cross, to being seated at the right-hand of the Father making intercession for the saints.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son......

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1 - Christ and His Deity: The Son of God

Chapter 2 - Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man

Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest

Chapter 6 - Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

Chapter 7 - Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full

Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

Chapter 12 - Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Chapter 13 - Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Today's Study

For almost 10 chapters we have been looking at "doctrine", the teaching and instructions of God, who He is and what He has done. And after we study doctrine, we move into study "duty", what we are to do based on what we have learned regarding God and His ways. Now we are all familiar with chapter 11, the Hall of Faith, and that is a clear change in this Epistle, bringing us into "duty", and how we are to exercise faith and the likes as we look at these Heroes of the Faith. And then chapters 12-13, we are given more practical duty of what we are to do and be as sons and daughters of God, based on all the teachings of chapters 1-10, but it is very subtle, that here in verse 10:19, we begin the "duty", and are given three very "intentional" things we should be doing, based on what we have been taught and shown in these past chapters.

Christians should live lives that are characterized by three activities:

- 1. prayer (10:22),
- 2. perseverance (10:23),
- 3. and encouragement (10:24, 25).

These three activities are enjoined on Christians by three cohortative subjunctive verb forms which appear in our English text following the words "let us." If you were to look in the original language, the

word "let us" is not in the text, as it is tied in with the verb of the word that follows (ie: draw, hold, consider).

- Cohortative (expressing exhortation)
- Subjunctive (should be intentional)
- Verb (action, a movement)

Thus, an encouragement to take intentional actions (in this case – a plural form, as the author calls us to join him to do this together)

Hebrews 10:22 (NKJV) ²² 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.

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

The first mention of this form of a verb can be found in Genesis (which just note it is in the plural form "us"). God was very intentional on His action to create us.

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

And here, in our passage before, we are given a very clear encouragement, on three things we are to be very intentional with, as we begin our study on "Christian duty", faith in action,

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- Prayer (the Upward) Hebrews 10:19-22
- Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) Hebrews 10:23
- Provoking One Another (the Outward) Hebrews 10:24-25

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

• Prayer (the Upward) – Hebrews 10:19-22

(Hebrews 10:19 NKJV) Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.

(Hebrews 10:20 NKJV) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is. His flesh.

(Hebrews 10:21 NKJV) and having a High Priest over the house of God,

(Hebrews 10:22 NKJV) 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.

By the verb proserchometha, believers are entreated to keep on coming near to God in prayer. A believers' life should be consistently characterized by doing this. This is a high privilege. Unlike those under the Levitical system whose high priestly representatives could only have direct contact with God

once a year on the annual Day of Atonement, believers through Jesus Christ have access to God at any time.

Christians should make the most of their unique opportunity, because they have a cleansing that is both ceremonial (in the ordinance of baptism) and actual (in the removal of the moral guilt of their consciences). Since they are thus cleansed by Christ's blood, they can come to God with a genuinely open heart, with no pretense, absolutely confident that He will welcome them and hear them because they have trusted His Son Jesus Christ as their atoning sacrifice.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews-Jude (pp. 127-129). World Library Press.

Another Let Us

We saw this same Let Us, verb form (proserchometha) back one of our anchor verses here at the church, the call to boldly come before the throne in prayer

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Come in full Assurance / Come in Truth

Come with full assurance, and Let us draw near with a true heart—not a pure heart, or a clean heart, but a *true* heart, saying, "I know I'm a sinner. But I also know what Jesus did is sufficient." What Jesus did is the Truth, and that truth sets me free. So I come boldly to Him, even if I haven't prayed in ten minutes, ten days, or ten years. Once I come with a *true* heart, the effectiveness of the sacrifice of Calvary takes effect.

How Far do You Go Back

And based on the cross, the question should be considered, how far back do we go in the confession of sins when we come to salvation? So how far back do we go after we see the Messiah and we have sin of our past? How far back do we go? I say, look at the thief on the cross. That's as far as he went back. The only requirement to cover our past sin is the lamb that was slain upon the cross. Jesus says in this new covenant, their sin and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. So when the thoughts come, it's the world, the devil, or very flesh that stirs up our past. Maybe you want to talk to the Lord about these things. He'll say okay, I don't know what you're talking about, but here I am. I'll talk to you about anything you want to talk about and we're forgiven.

Luke 23:41–43 (NKJV) ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

I know this sounds crazy, but there are times I'm thankful to the accuser of the brethren. If you would hear me out. Yeah, he reminds me of my sin, especially my past that he doesn't realize. Yet he reminds me more of my savior who says done, forgiven, blotted out. I remember it no more..... because of the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Christian, you need not go back. But if you do say thank you. Today, I'll be with you in paradise father, because what you did for me, Jesus there upon the cross, we didn't have a long counseling session. We didn't have to come to deep theology. As a thief on the cross he simply said, "Remember me when you enter into your kingdom." Jesus says, "Today, you'll be with me."

When You Take a Believer Back - Who You Like

By the way, think about it. When you take a <u>repentant believer</u> back to their past and put it in their face reminding them of all their faults and the failures you have to consider who am I more like? Jesus who said, "I will remember their sin no more." Or the devil, the accuser of the brethren. And you know what? You'll never be more like Jesus than when you say father, forgive them. They know not what they do.

Resurrection Power only After Death / How Quickly Jesus Died

As I was reflecting on the cross this week, I once again was amazed and pondering how quickly Jesus died, in only 6 hours. I have read historical accounts of people being nearly 2 weeks on the cross before dying. Now mind you, Jesus was brutalized greatly before the cross, so amazing that He even made it to the cross (after the scourging and beating, for many did not even survive the 40-lashes).

As Jesus hung on the Cross, the Roman soldiers came to break His legs in order to put Him to death quickly, the next day being a holy day. But when they came to speed up the death process, they marveled that He was already dead. In other words, Jesus died more quickly than they thought He would. He gave up the ghost sooner than they had anticipated. Perhaps sometimes we go through elongated difficulties and trials because, like Job, we're struggling to prove our point, to justify our position, or to have our way. But could it be that the Lord might say, "Just die. Give it up. Lay it down"?

Truly, there can be no reconciliation apart from death (Hebrews 9:16). Reconciliation between any two people cannot take place without death. Somebody's gotta die. The only question is who and when? Wouldn't it have been a tragedy if Jesus had kept on struggling on the Cross hour after hour, day after day? Aren't we glad that Jesus laid His life down after six hours? Why did He die so quickly? I suggest it was because the sooner He died, the sooner He would rise.

So, too, the sooner we die, resurrection and restoration will follow. I wonder if there is a husband or wife who is going through trials in their marriage because you're right and she's wrong. I wonder if there is a friend who is avoiding another because it's her fault not yours. Here's a better idea: Give it up. Let it go. Lay it down. Die.

Hebrews 9:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

To insure that Jesus was indeed dead, the Roman soldiers jabbed a spear in His side and out poured blood and water, the signs of a broken heart. You'll know you're truly dead to your rights, your point, your self if, when the sticking point is jabbed in your side, the only thing that flows from you is water and blood, redemption and refreshment.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

• Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) – Hebrews 10:23

(Hebrews 10:23 NKJV) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

10:23. Christians are enjoined by the verb katechōmen to keep on possessing the confession of their elpidos aklinē, that is, to persevere in maintaining their unwavering hope. Jesus who suffered and died for them is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. They do not yet see Him in all His power and kingdom glory (2:8), but they look for Him to return as King of kings and Lord of lords. They must persist in this hope because God is trustworthy. They can rely upon Him to keep His Word. He cannot lie, and He has sworn by oath that Jesus is an eternal Melchizedekian priest-king.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews-Jude (pp. 127-129). World Library Press.

Jesus is our faithful High Priest. To whom is He faithful? He is faithful to His Father (Hebrews 3:1, 2). Could we exhaust His patience? Possibly. Could the Father exhaust His patience? Impossible. Jesus is faithful to His Father to do what? To keep those who had been committed to Him (John 17:12). Hebrews 3:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.

John 17:12 (NKJV) ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

The Lord has given us a continual reminder, of how to be reminded, that it is done, the New Covenant has been signed, sealed, and delivered, through the finished work of the cross (that I/we had absolutely nothing to do with, nothing we can take credit for, for we were not even there.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup

is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

How low would the King of the Universe go to redeem you, buy us back and deliver s from our sin? Psalm 22 says God became a worm, that is how low the King would come for me!

In Job (although flawed in his counsel) Bildad says man before God, is like a worm (even a maggot), yet tie that all the way through to Psalm, that is how low God would go, and become (the God-Man) to redeem us! God became man, left heaven's throne, lived a perfect sinless life (for the qualification of the sacrifice was perfection), was crucified on the cross (in mine and your place), died and was buried, and then rose again on the 3rd day, and then 40 days later ascended into heaven and is seated at the Throne! **Job 25:6 (NKJV)** ⁶ How much less man, *who is* a maggot, And a son of man, *who is* a worm?"

Psalm 22:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

The Hebrew word translated "worm" is tolaith. In Hebrew, tolaith is used for both "worm" and "scarlet" because the tolaith was the worm from which red dye was extracted. The tolaith would reproduce by fastening itself to the limb of a tree, dying in the process of bearing its young. The young would then eat the body of the worm, leaving a small scarlet spot on the limb of the tree. After approximately three days, the crimson spot would dry, turn white, and flake off like snow. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow," Isaiah declared (1:18), and the word he used was tolaith.

Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV) 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Great is the mystery that God became a man (1 Timothy 3:16). But greater still is the mystery that the Man became a Lamb and the Lamb became a worm to save you and me.

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

• Provoking One Another (the Outward) – Hebrews 10:24-25

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, (Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) 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.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (KJV 1900) ²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

10:24, 25. Christians are exhorted by the verb katanoōmen to be constantly aware of one another and the need to stimulate one another to loving behavior and good works. The word translated "provoke" is paroxusmon. It refers to sharp contention and argument, suggesting that believers must sharply confront one another with their responsibility. If such admonition is to take place, Christians must meet together on a regular basis. A Christian cannot profit from the gifts of others unless he fellowships with them. Apparently, those receiving this epistle were withdrawing from the fellowship of the whole congregation in favor of their miniflock. In the light of the approaching day (a reference to the return of the Lord in judgment with some implications for the nearness of Jerusalem's destruction), the gathering of all was urged.

Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews-Jude (pp. 127-129). World Library Press.

Encourage / Build Up

Part of the purpose of the church is for exhortation, that we might be encouraged to good works, encouraged to seek the Lord, encouraged to forsake the things of the world, encouraged to walk close to Christ. That's a part of the reason for our gathering is for the exhortation, as well as edification, being built up in our faith, and to be comforted in the Scriptures

Mountain Climbers

For safety reasons, mountain climbers rope themselves together when climbing a mountain. That way, if one climber should slip and fall, he would not fall to his death. He would be held by the others until he could regain his footing.

The church ought to be like that. When one member slips and falls, the others should hold him up until he regains his footing. We are all roped together by the Holy Spirit.

Like a Coal / All because of the Son

Like a coal in a fire, it stays hot, and glows hot, when it stays amongst the other coals. Your love fuels my love, my love fuels your, and it is all because of the warmth of the Son, S-O-N. When the world watches us, they can say what they will, like nut cases meeting twice a week or more, men hugging men, meeting in a corner of business park. But they can't deny the love, and if they truly look into it, they will see it is all about, and all because of Jesus. Jesus the Son, is the fire that warms our hearts and this fellowship

Oh the power of encouragement. Here is a powerful story, that we can carry into our encouragement with one another.

Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens seemed sure to win the long jump at the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, Germany. Just the year before, he had set three world records in one day. He was the record holder for the running broad jump with 26 feet 8 inches—a record that would stand for 25 years.

As he walked to the long-jump pit, however, Owens saw a tall, blue-eyed, blond German taking practice jumps in the 26-foot range. Owens was nervous. He was aware of the tension created with his presence. He knew the Nazis' desire was to prove Aryan "superiority," especially over the blacks.

The pressure was overwhelming, and on his first jump Owens inadvertently leaped from several inches beyond the takeoff board. Rattled, he fouled on the second attempt, too. He was only one foul away from being eliminated.

At this point, the tall German approached Owens and introduced himself as Luz Long. Then an amazing event took place. The black son of a sharecropper and the white model of Nazi manhood chatted in view of the entire stadium. What were they talking about?

Since the qualifying distance was only 23 feet 5 inches, Long suggested making a mark several inches before the takeoff board and jumping from there, just to play it safe. Amazing! At the beginning of World War II, this model of Germany's strength was providing technical assistance and words of encouragement to a foe both on and off the field.

Owens qualified easily. In the finals, he set an Olympic record and earned the second of four gold medals during the 1936 Olympics. The first person to congratulate Owens was Luz Long—in full view of Adolf Hitler

Owens never saw Long again, for Long was killed in World War II. "You could melt down all the medals and cups I have," Owens later wrote, "and they wouldn't be plating on the 24-carat friendship I felt for Luz Long."

Citation: Ken Sutterfield, The Power of an Encouraging Word (New Leaf, 1997), pp. 105–106

Christian, who will you encourage today, and whose life will you affect through your encouragement.

Acts 1

So as we close, may I make this point, regarding prayer, as it is clearly what we have been called to be intentional in as we study this passage. I find it ever so interesting, that when Jesus was ascending into heaven, the angels said men why are you staring up into heaven, this Jesus as He was taken up, will return in the same manner. Now first up I don't blame them for staring, I would still be staring if I was

them. But I love what they did next when they were told that Jesus is coming back.... They gathered together for a prayer meeting. So too a picture of the Church in Corporate prayer in the Last Days.

Acts 1:9–11 (NKJV)⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Acts 1:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

The Day

"The Day" approaching is a reference to Second Coming of Christ, we are to remind each other of that, so when we grow weary of doing well and my be considering checking out for awhile, we stir up the fire that is living inside of, Christ Jesus, and we encourage each other along. We remind each other He is coming soon, we need to be ready, and let as many who will hear, hear!

And speaking of stirring one another, here are the 5 reasons we do a monthly Prophecy Update:

<u>Peace - Comfort one another that Jesus is Coming for</u> His Bride.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Priority – What is really important based on all these things?

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Purity - How then should we live based on these things.

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV) ² 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. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Proof - That this Bible is Inspired.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

<u>Preach - Tell the world the Good News - They need to hear it!</u>

John 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Watch Night

Watch Night, also called Freedom's Eve, Christian religious service held on New Year's Eve and associated, in many African American churches, with a celebration and remembrance of the Emancipation Proclamation (enacted January 1, 1863), which freed slaves in the Confederate states during the American Civil War. Many mainline Protestant churches in the United States sponsor a Watch Night service on New Year's Eve.

The tradition of Watch Night may be traced to the early 18th century in Moravian churches, when churchgoers began marking the occasion with a vigil to reflect upon the year past and to contemplate the one to come. John Wesley adopted the practice for his Methodist followers, who held similar vigils monthly with the full moon. It was given new significance among African Americans on December 31, 1862, when, according to tradition, slaves in the Confederate states gathered in churches and private homes on the night before U.S. Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was expected to go into effect, pending his signing of the document. The soon-to-be-free slaves stayed awake all night and

watched the night turn into a new dawn while waiting for news that the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued, thus making all the slaves legally free.

That is a true illustration, that truly illustrates what we should be doing and encouraging one another as we wait, on our watch night, for our freedom call, from this world.

Let Us be Intentional About These Three Things (10:19-25):

- Prayer (the Upward) Hebrews 10:19-22
- Perseverance and Holding Fast (the Inward) Hebrews 10:23
- Provoking One Another (the Outward) Hebrews 10:24-25

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need