

Confident Living in Confusing Times ***Hebrews 10:19-25***

We are all attempting to live our lives in the delicate balance between ORDER and CHAOS...

We love order!

- ***We see this in babies who quickly learn that when they cry their needs are attended to ...***

In fact, routine, structure, and order actually lower stress!

The problem is that we live in a world of chaos...

One of the problems many of us are having during these times is that our lives are out of order

- ***Children not going to school as normal...***
- ***Social distancing creating feelings of isolation...***
- ***Church online ... and when come having to wear masks and social distance...***

Attempting to create ORDER in a CHAOTIC world simply means that it's just a matter of time before CHAOS invades our sense of ORDER...

When CHAOS rules long enough and we move through a downward spiral...

- ***Frustration***
- ***Discouragement***
- ***Anger***
- ***Apathy***
- ***Passivity***
- ***Hopelessness***

When animals are subjected to difficult situations they cannot control, they stop trying to escape. They become passive.

Human beings are the same.

- ***If you experience devastating defeats,***
- ***a persistent situation that you couldn't change,***
- ***or experienced a terrifying situation that you could not control your exposure to,***
- ***then you may have lost hope for your ability to change your life or to change painful situations.***

These can lead to feelings of apathy and hopelessness.

Apathy or hopelessness may be puzzling to those around you.

- ***Why wouldn't you try to get a job,***
- ***make friends,***
- ***eat healthier, or***
- ***leave someone who is abusive?***

When you have no hope, you see any efforts to change your life as futile.

- ***You may blame yourself.***
- ***You might say that you cannot manage life,***
- ***cannot make friends and***
- ***cannot succeed in getting a job.***

You accept whatever happens as beyond your control. You may begin to despair.

But for the believer, these are the times we shine!

These are the moments where our faith is put into action!

ONE THING

When CHAOS invades bringing STRESS and DISPAIR, the CHURCH must ARISE to unleash God's LOVE and CARE!

The writer of Hebrews has been sharing with great detail for almost NINE CHAPTERS, why believers can trust in the finished work of Jesus...

The believers he is writing to are being persecuted...

They have been here before and did pretty good, but it is beginning to weigh heavy on them, their marriage, their families, etc...

They are beginning to think it would be better to simply compromise enough that the world wouldn't be so against them...

So, they have started pulling away from the other believers just enough to not seem too associated with them...

They are listening to the mindset of the world and beginning to wonder if Jesus is really all they thought He was...

In our passage we are going to be looking at this morning we are entering a transition in Hebrews from the doctrines and theology regarding Jesus to the practical application of Jesus in everyday life...

Let's read our passage and begin to understand how we can live with great confidence even in confusing times...

Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV) — Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great 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 with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

THREE TIMES in this passage he uses the phrase, “LET US”...

Hebrews 10:22 – “...let us draw near...”

Hebrews 10:23 – “Let us hold fast...”

Hebrews 10:24 – “...let us consider...”

These are in the SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD which means that believers must CHOOSE to do these things

If you're a believer struggling with your confidence to stand with Jesus in a culture that is not only turning it's back on Jesus, but is REDEFINING Jesus... creating another Jesus...

...Then here are THREE IMPORTANT things you must do to live with great courage in such confusing times...

1. You must ENTER God's Presence with CONFIDENCE!

Hebrews 10:19–22 (ESV) — Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 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 with pure water.

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) — Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Many people may ask, “What does it mean to ‘draw near’ to God?”

More important, many Christians do not have a systematic way of drawing near to God on a regular basis...

James 4:8 (ESV) — Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1. You must ENTER God's Presence with CONFIDENCE!

2. You must ENCOUNTER this fallen world with HOPE!

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

Let us Hold Fast...

Κατέχω - *to continue to believe, with the implication of acting in accordance with such belief—‘to continue to believe and practice, to continue to follow.’*

To hold fast means, to continue to believe, with the implication of acting in accordance with such belief.

Listen to the way he describes faith lived out daily...

“... the confession of our hope without wavering...”

Our confession of faith is based on the certainty of our hope in Christ

Hope is the confident expectancy of a certain and favorable future.

➤ ***LIFE in this world is not an ILLUSION, but HOPE in this world alone is a DELUSION!***

1 Corinthians 15:19 (ESV) — If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

The importance of genuine hope cannot be overstated...

But what is HOPE?

HOPE, true hope, is essential to healthy, joyful living, but what is it?

To answer, we must begin with what it is not ...

What hope is not...

**Hope is NOT “Wishful thinking”
“I sure hope it snows on Christmas day.”**

**Hope is NOT optimism ... that prevailing attitude that
“things turn out for the best...”**

Hope does not arise from being told to “think positively”...

Hope does not arise from hearing a favorable forecast...

**Hope is NOT action based on presumption or a hunch
“Well here goes... I sure hope this works...”**

The dictionary defines HOPE as

**“A wish or desire accompanied by expectation of
its fulfillment.”**

Hope, genuine hope, is rooted in reality...

**Jerome Groopman, a medical professor at Harvard, defines
in his book, “The Anatomy of Hope” ...**

**“Hope is the elevating feeling we experience when
we see – in the mind’s eye – a path to a better
future.”**

We ALL experience times and periods of LOST HOPE...

Again, in our passage we are told...

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

We can hold fast because of God’s faithfulness!

**Romans 15:13 (ESV) — May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy
Spirit you may abound in hope.**

1. You must ENTER God’s Presence with CONFIDENCE!

2. You must ENCOUNTER this fallen world with HOPE!

**3. You must ENGAGE fellow believers with
ENCOURAGEMENT!**

**Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV) — And let us consider how to stir
up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to
meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one
another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

But HOW?

➤ PROVOKE ACTION

Hebrews 10:24 (ESV) — And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...

Let us Consider...

Κατανοέω - to give very careful consideration to some matter—‘to think about very carefully, to consider closely.’

Stir up...

Παροξυσμός - markers of a causative relation, with the implication of stimulating a change in motivation or attitude—‘to cause, encouragement.’

It means, “to provoke”

In the negative we see this word used in the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas...

Acts 15:39 (ESV) — And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.

We need to be provoking one another to engaging the world with love and good works!

Matthew 5:16 (ESV) — In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

The second thing we need to be doing...

➤ **PROHIBIT ISOLATION**

Hebrews 10:25a (ESV) — Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...

Neglecting...

ἐγκαταλείπω - to cease from an activity which has gone on for some time—‘to cease, to stop, to forsake.’

Meet Together...

ἐπισυναγωγή – The active gathering together of a group – “assembling, gathering”

Habits...

ἔθος - a pattern of behavior more or less fixed by tradition and generally sanctioned by the society—‘custom, habit.’

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) — Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

The word translated “morals” here is actually “habit”...

➤ **PROVIDE AFFECTION**

Hebrews 10:25 (ESV) — ... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Encourage...

Παρακαλέω - to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, either by verbal or non-verbal means— ‘to encourage, to console, encouragement.’

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV) — Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

The word “comfort” used here is a derivative of the same word used in our passage as “encourage”...

John 14:16 (ESV) — And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever

Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit...

Confident Living in Confusing Times
Hebrews 10:19-25

When _____ invades bringing _____ and _____,
the _____ must _____ to unleash God’s _____ and
_____!

**1. You must _____ God’s Presence with
_____!**

**2. You must _____ this fallen world with
_____!**

➤ _____ in this world is not an _____, but
_____ in this world alone is a _____!

**3. You must _____ fellow believers with
_____!**

➤ _____

➤ _____

➤ _____

Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. Revelation 2:7 (NLT)

“Lord, SPEAK to me today.”

Isaiah 50:4 (NIV) The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.

Psalms 119:147 (NLT) I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words

Psalms 5:3 (NLT) Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

“Lord, SEARCH me today.”

Psalms 139:23-24 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalms 90:8,12 (NLT) You spread out our sins before you - our secret sins - and you see them all. Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Psalms 19:12 (NLT) How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

“Lord, SHOW me today.”

Psalms 143:8 (NLT) Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you.

Psalms 25:4-5 (NLT) Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.

Psalms 25:12 (NLT) Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose.

“Lord, SEND me today.”

Psalms 27:11 (NLT) Teach me how to live, O Lord. Lead me along the right

Psalms 119:133 (NLT) Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil.

John 20:21 (NLT) “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

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Crossgates – AM Sermon

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