

A Consistent Hope: Stay Near II

HVFC

October 12, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 10:32-35

Good morning, and a chilly one at that...

We are marching steadily into winter. There are 46 days until Thanksgiving, that is just 6 more Sundays and 74 days until Christmas, 10 more Sundays if you are keeping track.

And as much as I was hoping, we will not finish Hebrews before the end of the year as best I can tell.

We currently find ourselves in chapter 10 and I am evermore intrigued as I try to focus very diligently on our current topic and that it keeps getting larger and more intertwined with the context.

The more I study about holding fast and staying near the more I learn how this has to be done in community with a local church.

Last week we looked at how one forsakes their confession of hope. And at its core is the abandonment of their Faith and their fellow believers.

The reject God's truth. We do this when we choose not to obey God's word, and submit to his authority and live life how we want, with our own truth to lead us. And that will never lead us to God.

Next, we trample on God's Son. We count it as worthless and foolish, something to be trampled underfoot because of its utter uselessness.

Lastly, we insult the Spirit of Grace. The Holy Spirit that first convicted us, and lead us to Jesus for forgiveness, which provided a way to God's presence

To come to a place of once believing and abandoning your only opportunity to find life, the only expectation they have is a fearful judgement with fiery indignation from the hands of a living God with vengeance on his mind.

And with this month being horror movie month, that picture is the scariest thing you can imagine being.

But thankfully, that doesn't have to be our reality.

We can choose to stay near to God's truth, his son and his spirit which will bring great rewards, eternal life in Heaven to be with Jesus.

Turn with me to Hebrews chapter 10 and we are going to start in verse 31 this morning.

Hebrews 10:32 & 35

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ...

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

NKJV

Let's pray.

How many of you have ever watched the movie "unbroken" the story of Louie Zamperini?

It is a war drama that chronicles the incredible true story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who endures and survives a harrowing journey during WW2, facing both nature and human cruelty.

I struggled to watch this movie because everything in me wants to revolt regarding the treatment of fellow human beings with such contempt and vileness. And how evil always seems to have the upper hand in every situation.

Which if we look at the world today it is hard to argue.

However, the movie showcases the fact that love over comes hate, good out last evil, and that right is always better than wrong.

And this morning we are going to dig into how this plays out for us, and should bring us to the place where we choose to stay near to God and our savior Jesus.

Verse 32 is going to set the stage for us.

Hebrews 10:32

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

NKJV

This scripture tells us to remember back to your salvation experience and recall the great struggle and sufferings you have endured to come to the place where you sit this morning.

Now we might have some “holier than thou” mindsets in our midst that would say something to the effect of “what struggles and suffering, it has all been roses because God is with me”.

Here is the problem with reality, it rarely bends to our wishes.

We have to see this scripture as a tight rope we walk through life.

This tight rope of life has a name.

It is called trouble.

Think back to the words of Jesus, in this life you will have trouble. John 16:33.

And often times it is trouble and our reaction to it that determines our life.

And this is true of us every day. We can wake up, and hit our toe as we are getting out of bed and say well I see how the rest of the day will be, or we can say, well glad I got that out of the way already, can only go up from here.

And our choice often has influence on our attitude for the rest of the day.

Here the writer is setting up the same scenario for our spiritual man.

This is what we are going to learn today.

Recall how you endured great struggle with suffering and it:

Fostered fellowship,

Grew compassion,

Produced resilience,

And Focused your priorities.

Let's look at these 4 things this morning.

Recalling what you have endured will foster fellowship.

Hebrews 10:32-33

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

NKJV

Recall how you endured in part being made a spectacle by reproaches and tribulations.

When you suffered from reproaches. On-i-dis-mos is the Greek word. And it means enduring harsh, insulting language or treatment, to be subject to abusive language and/or behavior. To be reproached.

It continues with and suffer tribulations, trials, trouble, affliction.

Now, here in America, this is not something that was or is commonly experienced in the Christian community.

But it seems like times are changing.

Persecutions around the globe are on the rise for the Christian believer.

And if you read the Bible, it says that things will get more and more difficult as the day of Jesus return gets closer.

For those who have experienced reproaches and tribulations, most often experience them from family and friends that are not saved.

We are to recall the part we suffered reproaches and tribulations, but also partly how we became companions with others who have suffered reproaches and tribulations.

Note the commonality, whether we or a fellow believer, they both suffer reproaches and tribulations. And because of that it should foster fellowship, having both experienced sufferings.

When we are the recipient of harsh and belittling language or treatment it burdens us, even if we know we didn't deserve it. And often those burdens begin to weigh us down and separate us from those we need encouragement from.

That is why we should gather together, so that we can bear each other's burdens in fellowship with one another.

Paul put it like this in Galatians.

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

NKJV

As we recall the reproaches and tribulations we have endured, we will be reminded to foster fellowship with one another that once helped us make it through those difficult times.

As well, we should grow in compassion.

Recall how you endured, and it grew compassion for other believers.

Hebrews 10:32 & 34

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

34 for you had compassion on me in my chains,

NKJV

Over the past couple of weeks we have seen and heard repeatedly about Charlie Kirk and his murder. And one of the most amazing things I have seen is the compassion that has been poured out on Erica Kirk from other believers.

As we endure sufferings, it allows the ability to have compassion for those who are experiencing utterly impossible and difficult times. Like losing a loved one.

And all over the world, everyday believers are able to share how God has turned their sicknesses and troubles and impossible situations into a testimony and use it as an opportunity for compassion.

Even last week in this building, I learned of this very thing happening between two people experiencing similar things, and one able to offer encouragement and advice.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous...

NKJV

Recalling what we have endured allows us to grow in compassion for others and to be a force to help ourselves and others stay near during hard times.

It also produces resilience.

Hebrews 10:32-34

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

34 ...and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

NKJV

We must be resilient.

How many times a day do we need to repent for sins?

How many times a day does Jesus command us to forgive?

How often do troubles come across our paths?

The enemy constantly walks about; the flesh is constantly at war with the spirit.

Our battle is none stop.

Christians through out history have been considered soft targets. As you know one of my favorite periods of history to read about is Medieval Times. And I love a

good Viking story. And they would often plunder, kill, and destroy towns with churches because they knew the Christians would not fight back.

But eventually, the Christians won the day because they were resilient in worshipping God. They would rebuild and put their trust in God to keep them in life or in death.

They, as should we, understood that our hope was not in this life only, but in the next life as well. We have an everlasting eternal possession that cannot be plundered, stolen, or destroyed awaiting us when this life is over.

It is worth giving up what we cannot keep, to gain what we cannot lose in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed —

NKJV

Recalling what we have endured produces resilience to keep us near to God during times of trouble.

These three things, fostering fellowship, growing in compassion, and producing resilience, when done in our community of faith will give us focused priorities.

Hebrews 10:35

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

NKJV

In closing this morning.

There is a common thread in this sermon and the last couple that I finally grasped onto this week.

That thread is trouble, trials, tribulations.

They are common to mankind.

Saved or unsaved, man or woman, Jew or Gentile, slave or free.

The question becomes what is the difference then?

The difference is how we choose to respond when trouble comes.

The same sun that hardens the clay...

These suffer trouble but pull away or fall to the left of the trouble tight rope we walk daily.

Is the same sun that melts the butter!

These suffer trouble but stay near to God and the community of faith for fellowship, compassion, resilience, encouragement and strength to endure the season of trials.

My two biggest take aways from this section of scripture are:

1. The absolute presence of trouble, and
2. The only way to endure is through community.

Trouble will rule the day, Jesus's words.

But what will you choose?

Does that trouble harden your heart and push you away from God? If it hardens your heart, you have chosen to reject God's truth, trample his Son, and insult the Spirit of Grace.

That is what lies to the left of the tight rope of trouble in this life.

Or...

Does that trouble push you to stay near to God and your brothers and sisters of the faith?

If you rightly respond to trouble, you will foster and find fellowship, grow in compassion, and produce resilience to keep your priorities focused on Jesus.

Stand with me.

At some point today we are bound to rub up against some kind of trouble.

Maybe it was this message.

When you do, you have a choice to make.

Will you let it harden your heart and pull you away from God?

Or will you soften your heart and press into God's word and seek fellowship, compassion, and hope from this community of believers?

This morning, if I may be so bold, if you are in the midst of trouble and could use some fellowship, compassion, resiliency today, would you raise your hand?

I know it maybe difficult, but it is easy to get wrapped up in our own world and not notice those sitting next to us and what they are going through.

If someone next to you has their hand raised, they need their community to circle around them.

Let's pray.