

A Consistent Hope: Stay Near

Sunday, October 5th

I'm being a shepherd butcher season the best season of shepherding is coming up Fine Raise animals just once and you will love butcher day. It is it becomes a great day sometimes But it fills up the freezers as we walk into winter and it gets everything just right I just I thoroughly enjoyed it a couple weeks ago, we entered into what I'm calling the final quarter of the book of Hebrews and I really have that same type of excitement and expectation as I do for the coming months of this year and We've been looking at the last couple weeks how we respond and live a consistently hopeful Life and so we've been talking through chapter 10 and how we can be consistent in this Hope that Christ Jesus has given us and so as you know, this world doesn't offer any hope if you've been anywhere Talk to many people One of the greatest calamities I think of the younger generations is the fact that there is this despair and hopelessness that runs rampant in The world today which is why Depression and suicide and other things like that have such a stronghold Upon people because there's just no hope That it's going to get better but as Christians Through Jesus Christ we have hope amen We have hope that it's going to get better and guess what guys it's not to be kept for us It's like having hot bread and being in a starving community. You have to pass it out You have to do everything you can to share the gospel to bring everyone that we can with us.

Amen First Corinthians Paul says this he says if in this life only we have hope in Christ. We are of all men Most pitiable, you know, I learned something new about that passage today or this week I just thought it said if in this life only we have hope but it says if in this life we have hope in Christ Then we're still pitiable Because the hope that Jesus offers isn't for just this life. It's an expectation past this life Did you know what this life gives us It gives us trouble heartache hardship Difficult days.

I mean if you watch the news if you do any kind of thing about the world and things that are going on There's a lot of reason to despair There really is But yet we have hope for more than just this life We have hope for the eternal life. Amen And it's through the resurrection that we have this hope that we can be free from death hell in the grave and sin and all that the enemy seeks to Keep us bound up in and so this chapter we've been talking Gives us four things that we can do in response of this Hope that has been given to us through salvation a couple weeks ago We talked about entering into God's presence with boldness and coming before him because the blood of Jesus Christ has made a way for Us to be in God's presence last week. We talked about holding fast to our confession of hope and that we are to provoke one another to good works and to love almost forgot and talking about provoking and poking people trying to get the best out of them and And we learned also that the only true way that we can hold fast to our confession of hope Is in our church community setting? That's why the the writer encourages us not to forsake Fellowshiping together.

It's coming together and being united as one cause rejoicing together weeping together Experiencing life together that we can encourage each other To keep going and to not give up and knowing that hey My fight is not something that is just for me. I you've experienced

that too. How did you get through this? What can I do? And things like that and that's how we are to hold fast.

We are to do it together and This morning we've come to the third response that we are to have and that is to stay near to God And the writer is going to change things up this week a little bit. He's going to give two detailed pictures Regarding the options that we have in our response to God. So if you will open your Bibles with me to Hebrews chapter 10 I'm gonna read two passages out of our out of our text today And then we're gonna circle back and take it all in.

Amen Hebrews chapter 1 verse 31 says it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God Therefore do not cast away your confidence Which has great reward Amen, let's pray Father we thank you Lord for this opportunity to be together Lord Lord as we have been studying your word and looking at how we are to respond to this great Hope that you have given us father and how we are to maintain it and be consistent in it and let it grow To the point father where it spills out and it goes and it's shared with the world So that we can bring others into the kingdom of God by our testimony and our Sharing of what you have done for us father this morning as we Read this text and we open up what you're saying to help us to identify how we are to stay near to you What we are to do to maintain This relationship on our part father and I ask that you would speak to us this morning Help us to hear what you would have us here by the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name. Amen Amen If We've been in chapter 10 for a little bit. So if you've been kind of reading this this chapter each week Coming to where we're going to be speaking this passage this morning is some very difficult scriptures in Hebrews as People as humans we have this eternal struggle Eternal struggle with authoritative structure and Here is our problem We have to have it But we don't like it Have any of you ever read the book the Lord of the Flies? What an atrocious book But this is what mankind could look like if we lived lives with no authority with no rules However, we want to live it it would descend into utter chaos Yet as much as we need this structure We just hate it.

Don't we we hate the confines. We hate the laws We hate the rules everyone who broke the speed limit driving to church this morning. You are a prime example Love it.

Don't you you dislike? Yes. Look at that rule. I can do 35 right here We Hate it.

That's why we so often look for loopholes We try to we buy the little scanners that help us know where the police are so we can speed at will Until we see our little things bleep as a teenager. I love that gadget. I won't let my kids have one.

I Don't even know if Billy knew about that No But we love to look for loopholes we want to be free from the confines of laws and rules we kind of want our Montana Big Sky Spirit just to run wild right? We want to be able to do what we want when we want how we want without any of the consequences See we want the blessings that the structure offers, but we hate the restrictions that it demands And this is how most of us want to view God most of us want the blessings and the life and the goodness that God gives but Man, I ain't listening or reading and obeying one thing to get it. We hate that there's consequences to actions we hate that we have to submit to God and we have to Curtail the desires of our heart we have

to Choose not to do some things because well, there's this thing called the Word of God and If we want the blessings that come from it We have to obey it a lot of us want to view God this way. Well, God is love, right? So if God loves me He's gonna take care of everything.

I can do whatever I want. I can live. However, I want I can do whatever I want free of the consequences and God loves me.

So he's just gonna take care of me. It's gonna be okay That's what we want We want his blessings, but we don't want his Restrictions and that is the context of our message this morning beginning in verse 26 Hebrews chapter 10 starts this way. It says for if we sin, I Want to stop right there The word that we have for which begins this sentence is a shorter version of the word therefore And what do we do when we see a therefore? We look for what it's there for And it tells us to look back and he has just said in the previous verse What did he say says do not forsake the gathering together of yourselves as some have done but rather provoke one another to love and to good works and so He's talking about Going back to the previous verse and looking at what it says and that word for specifically connects to The word forsaking in verse 25 and so I Took this and I wrote this word this scripture as you can see it now go back one Oh, you can go to the next one guys.

Sorry. I put Hebrews chapter 10 verse 26 wills preaching version So this is not an actual version you have. This is my Personal preaching version that I'm writing And this is the first scripture that I've written in my own version But this is what that scripture says if we were to look back and see what the four is Therefore it says for if we sin by forsaking the community of believers after we have received the knowledge of the truth there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins See there are clear lines that are being drawn in our scripture Jesus made mention of them in Matthew 25 and I know I every I have mentioned them several times as we've gone through the book of Hebrews that There is only two herds of people There's two camps.

There's two options There are sheep and goats. Nobody likes goats There's heaven or hell. Nobody likes hell There's God or the devil What's interesting in life is there's no neutral ground there's no Swiss nation of neutrality that we can run to we are a part of one of those camps and this morning This passage is highlighting that line again So what the writer does this morning he goes into an explanation of what? classifies or Identifies those two groups.

This is one of the best passages of Scripture to find what it means to truly forsake the gospel or to Abandon or apostasize your belief and we're going to talk about that just a little bit this morning But I do want to remind you that our writer is speaking to believers He's not talking to unbelievers lost in the world These are people of the Jewish community that have converted to Christianity and they are walking out their faith But yet they've noticed as verse 25 has told us that there are some who have chosen to forsake The gospel and to walk away not just from the church but from the community of faith as a whole and so we're gonna Talk about that. They have walked away. They've severed their conscience they have rejected Jesus as the Messiah and That is where the writer lands this morning, so What have these apostates done to earn this badge the writer is going to tell us three things I have a seven-point sermon today Yes, and it's 11 o'clock.

You guys are in for it Good thing it's cold outside First I have seven points. I'm only gonna do three today guys First they have rejected God's truth Hebrews chapter 10 verse 26 and 27 says for if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of truth There is no longer remains a sacrifice for sins But a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation, which will devour the adversaries So as we begin I want to deal with the elephant in the room Most of your translations begin verse 26 with the word willfully or Deliberately or some terminology expressing choosing to sin with purpose Now you can choose to raise your hand nod smile sit there quietly But how many of us are guilty of willfully or deliberately making a choice to sin It doesn't matter if you respond or not. It's true Thus is the nature of sin you choose Your actions we all do every one of us have willfully or deliberately made the choice to sin So does that mean according to this passage that there is no longer a sacrifice for our sin whoo Barnes commentary makes this remark and talking about this specific part He says if it meaning sinning willfully were to be taken with metaphysical exactness It would demonstrate that every Christian who ever does anything wrong no matter how small would be lost So thankfully the scripture is not saying what we think it says off the top our head So it really can't mean that because that means all of us would be lost I wanted to ask the question how many of you have sinned today before you even got to church? Before you got out of bed different You guys were a little anxious to answer that over there you So, what does it mean So it I'm sorry What it does mean is those who deliberately and willfully abandon his faith who turns away who forsakes Who apostatizes from God's truth rejecting it in totality? No longer wanting to be a part of it.

It is speaking to those who have made this choice If they have chosen that God and Jesus is not the answer and I won't ever go back to it It's saying that there is no other way for them to atone for their sin and be reconciled to God why Because Jesus is the only way to God They have rejected the truth of Jesus Christ That's God's truth. It's Jesus Christ because Jesus himself said I am the way the truth and the life and To reject him only leaves one thing It leaves a certain and fearful expectation of judgment from a living God That sounds fun, doesn't it? No, it does not it also labels us as an enemy of God It can go on in verse 28 and says Anyone who has rejected Moses's law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses so Deuteronomy chapter 17 talks about how If there is one who rejects Moses's law and apostatizes from the the Jewish faith They were to be stoned given a physical death in The New Covenant this carries on it says those who choose to forsake the gift of God's truth will suffer an eternal death a second death far worse than a physical death of Of how much worse punishment is that to reject God's truth But not only have they rejected God's truth They have trampled on the Son of God of how much worse punishment do you suppose will be thought? Will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot? Counted the blood of the Covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing To trample the Son of God How many of us have special people in our lives whether it be a parent a spouse a child a grandparent or a friend That if someone took to tearing them down belittling them treating them like trash Might encounter a different version of you in that moment That would be me Everyone knows me as a very jovial good-natured loud laugh kind of guy but I I'm not gonna boast in this but I will say this honestly If you wrong my wife and my kids That encounter with me will not be a pleasant one and you will walk away with a different perspective of Will Parsons And I'm just a person I'm just a person imperfect love. I'm not perfect.

Oh, it feels good to get up though my chest I'm not perfect, but yet I would respond that way If you chose to trample upon my family Imagine those who trample Jesus God's only son in whom he spoke twice saying I am well pleased with Want to see a different side of a loving merciful gracious God Reject Jesus his son and you will see a totally different God on Judgment Day So This word trample is interesting because it's used two other times in the Gospels Matthew chapter 5 verse 13 says if you're the salt of The earth, but if the salt loses its flavor if you were once saved, but you have now Rejected Jesus Christ you have lost your flavor How shall it be seasoned? There's no other sacrifice for sins. It is then good for what? nothing To be thrown on the road and trampled on Because it's worth nothing Matthew chapter 7 goes on to say cast Not your pearls in front of swine lest they trample them under feet This is what it means to trample Something or someone and they both speak to regarding something as worthless Only to be good enough to be thrown away given to the pigs to be trampled in the mud and the stink So we translate that to chapter 10 of Hebrews to trample on Jesus and his shed blood means that we value him and his work on the cross as worthless Good for nothing Except for a swear word To be mixed into the religious slurry of excrement and mud of a pig wallow That is what the apostate does When they trample the Son of God and they count his shed blood as unimportant So this morning We have looked at those who have forsaken the god I'm good I can go with this I'm on the purple mic guys So those who have Wow, hello It is all now boys and girls it's gone So those who have forsaken the gospel of Jesus Christ have rejected God's truth they trampled on God's Son and They've also despised the Spirit of grace Hebrews chapter 10 verse 29 says of how much worse punishment do you suppose will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot Counted the blood of the Covenant by which it was sanctified a common thing and insulted the Spirit of Grace So to insult or despise the Spirit of Grace, of course, it's talking about the Holy Spirit is the final straw if you will and Here's why Our journey of faith Which led to salvation began With us being drawn by the Holy Spirit first to Jesus's forgiveness Which then gives us access to God's presence? See the Holy Spirit is that still small voice that convicts us of our sin and it leads us on the path of restoration to being a child of God to coming into Our salvation with him. It's the Holy Spirit that does all this work We've said many times that we don't do anything for our salvation. It's the Holy Spirit that convicts us It's a Holy Spirit that draws us It's the Holy Spirit that gives us the ability to come to Jesus and say man I need to change I need to be different.

I need the blood of Jesus Christ That's not something that we would choose of our own volition But it is something that the Holy Spirit leads us to do so Of course speaking to someone who has once believed they have encountered the Holy Spirit this way and to then insult The Spirit of Grace by saying you know what? You're not it Everything you're saying is a lie. I don't believe that I need my sin fixed. I don't believe that I need Jesus That's what one who apostatizes does So they have forsaken wholeheartedly and with a complete and utter rejection all That the Spirit has said they've rejected the conviction that he's brought They're saying you know what this isn't what I want I don't believe this anymore They have come to a place Where they feel like they don't need forgiveness for their sin.

They might even come to the place. I don't have sin I'm a decent okay person. I don't need this And it's that choice That condemns them to hell And marks them as an enemy of God because as our scripture shares there is no other sacrifice By which man can be saved?

That's why these passages get difficult Because whether We have once been unbelievers or not.

I mean we all have but we're not now But there is the warning that this could come But we also know people that are in this camp and it gets very difficult because we know that man if they don't receive Jesus There's two choices there's two places Those who choose Jesus get heaven But for those who choose to reject God his Son and the Spirit that choice Has an eternal consequence Because not only does it put us in a place where we become God's enemy It gives us or it makes us I don't want to say that it Eligible, that's the word. I'm looking for it makes us eligible For God's vengeance That doesn't sound very exciting Hebrews chapter 10 verse 30 says for we know him who said vengeance is mine. I will repay says the Lord and Again, the Lord will judge his people It is a fearful thing To fall into the hands of a living God It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God I'm only halfway through this.

So I'm gonna I'm gonna wrap it up next week Going through the other side of this Of why we should not cast away our confidence And remain near to God but the truth is one day we will all be in the hands of a living God and It says when we get there, he's going to separate the sheep from the goats He's going to separate the saved from the unsaved and there is going to be a judgment for all but for those who are saved We will be judged different Than those who aren't saved Those who Are not saved will face his vengeance and Will be repaid with eternal damnation in hell That's heavy isn't it That's heavy see those who despise the Spirit of Grace trample God's Son and reject God's truth Will find themselves in the hands of a living and very fearful God and As terrifying as that is The sad reality is it is us That chooses whether we will be a friend or an enemy of God The best part of God is he has provided everything we need To leave the camp of the enemy to become a friend of God to experience his Salvation his grace and his mercy to walk into his presence to have his Holy Spirit living inside of us that we might experience joy and peace and all the fruit of the Spirit God has done everything for us We only have to choose to put our faith in him Accept his gift and that is a blessing that we have But unfortunately, there's another side to that coin because we also have the ability to say, you know what? No, thank you. I don't need it. I Don't want it.

I Don't want to submit I don't want to believe I don't want to change who I am What the writer has been sharing with us is that we have Through God's provision the ability to enter into his presence with boldness because of the blood of Jesus Christ we have the ability to hold fast to our hope that he will come again and will bring us to an eternal life in heaven as long as we stick together in community and we we don't forsake gathering together and we provoke each other to Continue and to strive and to get better and stronger in our faith and then here this morning That choice is really highlighted that we have to make to stay near to him because there's this constant force choosing and Working and vying to drag us away To pull our attention somewhere else to say, you know what? I don't need God's presence today I'm fine. I'm okay. It's a good day.

I don't need to hold fat. I don't need that church people They're a bunch of hypocrites. They don't want to do what I want them to do.

I don't need them people It's just me and Jesus. I Mean that's good for a little bit, but it won't last And I know that we're heading to this we didn't get a chance to look at it but Next week we're going to look at what it looks like To not cast away your confidence but today we looked at what it's like to cast that away to reject Jesus and it means ultimately that we fall into the hands of a fearful God and I know that most of us here are not Apostates Yet that slide begins with a small crack And if it's not dealt with it grows into a great chasm Most of us won't wake up tomorrow and be like, you know what? I hate God. No, thank you That's a large leap But what it does it begins with little things little wrongs little hurts Little things that begin to fester and we don't choose to take care of them.

We just kind of ignore it. It'll be okay You know, I'm just not gonna hang out with Josh, I don't know that guy he's weird like him There's just these little things that begin to fester pick it on you man, but it's yeah But it's these little things that begin and then as as we don't deal with them It begins to grow and it begins to grow and then all of a sudden a year or two from now We realize man. I haven't been to church in six months and read my Bible I'm kind of living like the world.

I've kind of rejected everything that I once held near and dear to me So I realize that most of us aren't at that state today But what our text has done for us this morning is give us a clear picture of what forsaking God looks like So the question becomes what do I do with this Why this message why today? We're all saved who needs to hear this We all do So, what do we do with this easy Examine your heart Ask the Holy Spirit father. Is there something is there a seed of? Unbelief in my heart. Is there a seed of unforgiveness whether it be small now that has the potential to grow to a place of becoming a fruitful tree and forsaking you eventually Asked the Holy Spirit to to test your motives to test the intents of your heart Am I truly doing this because I love God or am I doing it from a selfish sinful place? And you know what? That's only something that you and the Holy Spirit can judge.

I don't know your intentions. I don't know your heart You know your heart everything can look good on the outside, but you might have this heart that's bitter and hard and resentful and It's pulling you away from the father and I would never notice it So we can examine our hearts We can ask the Holy Spirit to test our motives and our intentions to convict us of any area that we might be rejecting God's truth trampling God's Son or despising the Spirit of Grace Because every one of them starts small and if left unaddressed will grow This Morning brother Tom Pick this song out of the blue. I believe led by the Holy Spirit About being near to God as him that none of us had ever heard But what a fitting song for today that we can Choose to stay near to God We can choose it or we can choose to reject and walk away So this morning if you will You don't have to stand stay seated.

I just want to as brother Tom plays this song. I'm just gonna pray for us And I will say if you do feel led you sure welcome to come down to the altar I'd be happy to pray with here someone else will as well But I just want to pray for us Because whether Because we probably know someone who's in this state And we can petition the father for them So as brother Tom plays this we're just gonna pray father I just thank you for this word Father it's a trying and it's a hard word The reason Is I know that I was once in that camp that was your enemy I Once chose to be a part of the camp That deserves your vengeance Because I was rejecting Every gift that you provided for my salvation But father I'm very grateful and

thankful That through the Holy Spirit You've drawn me into your presence I have heard your truth and I have chosen to accept your truth But father as we sit here today if we're to be honest we know many people who have not And Lord I pray that you would this week place them firmly upon our hearts That as we spend time reading your word and in prayer father that we would Call out their name before you Father because what I know about you is that your desires that all men would be saved That everyone who is living and breathing would come to understand the beautiful gift and a life that you offer And that they would see the goodness that you have and that they would choose to receive your grace and your mercy and It's because of that Characterization of you father we can come before your throne and we can say Lord you see My friend my child my parents Whoever it is Father they're not serving you Father I pray that you would send your spirit to them Convict them draw them to you that they might experience your grace and mercy Thank you Lord for what you're doing in this church and in our hearts and in our lives in Jesus name Amen Amen, I am gonna let brother Tom sing that song but I'm gonna have our ushers come up and I just want to take up an offering for the Gideons as brother Tom sings this and then I just ask that you would ask the Lord which He would have you do knowing that it's going to purchase the Word of God to go to 199 different countries Where they don't have ten Bibles sitting on their shelf and that they can hear and see and have the Word of God for themselves So father I thank you Lord for this morning I thank you for brother Chuck and the Gideon ministry God I pray that you would be with them Lord that you would give them the courage and boldness father that they would be leaders amongst men father that they would draw Others that need to join their ranks But Lord that you would give them boldness to hand Bibles to share the gospel of salvation to have conversations With people who are interested But not just the Gideons father. I pray that you would Give us that ministry as well in our own church in our own lives with our own Mission field that you've put us in Lord that we would be bold in sharing your word and handing out scriptures Where they need to be handed out planting seeds So that we might have a harvest of souls in Jesus name.

Amen A place where sin cannot molest Near to the heart of God O Jesus blest Redeemer Sent from the heart of God Hold us away before Thee near to the heart of God There is a place of comfort sweet near to the heart of God a Place where we are save your me near to the heart of God O Jesus blest Redeemer Sent from the heart of God Hold us away Before Thee Near to the heart of God There is a place of full release near to the heart of God a Place where all is joy and peace near to the heart of God O Jesus blest Redeemer Sent from the heart of God Hold us away before Thee near to the heart of God Amen what a beautiful beautiful song Amen Well, thank you for coming this morning. You are dismissed Lord bless you