

The Word of Exhortation - *Sunday, June 28th, 2026*

But I'm going to be actually really honest with you. I'm extremely disappointed to be done with this book. I have really, really enjoyed the study of the book of Hebrews. I have personally grown in my faith quite a bit from the time I started this until now. Just... It's interesting how as you read the Bible and as you think you have faith and you look through things and there's just some things that we can all grow up in just a little bit. We have seeds of faith, but God is looking for the fruit of faith. And sometimes there's some growth that has to happen in our life. And I feel like that's what the book of Hebrews has done for me. It's given me a depth and an understanding about my faith. But last week, we examined the final push that the author had in our study in chapter 13, and he's wrapping up his writings, and he wants to remind his audience, his readers, to... That God has one goal, and he's had it since the beginning, and it's still his goal today, and it is his goal until Jesus returns. And it is the goal to bring us to completion or perfection, working in us a life that is pleasing in his sight. And so we talked about last week the God of peace. And we talked about that word peace, which is not a serenity and a calmness where nothing goes wrong and everything is always right, but it's a peace of wholeness or completion. And that how this God who wants to bring us peace wants to do it through bringing us wholeness and completion and perfection in our life. And so to do that, of course, he had to send Jesus, the great shepherd, to die on the cross and shed his blood for us. And that offering that Jesus made established an everlasting covenant for us, one that will not change until Jesus returns. He's finalized his covenant and he's made his last one. And he's going to use those things, Jesus and this covenant, to bring us into this perfection or this completion that he started in us. And I found it interesting that the writer wrapped up the book the same way he opened the book. And we talked last week how there's this God of peace who wants to bring us to completion, but he opens up Hebrews chapter 1 saying, "...God, who at various times and in various ways spoke to us through the prophets..." And through the fathers, he has now spoken to us through his son. And so there's this continuation of the work that God has done from the Old Testament into our lives today. And he opens and closes the book on the same word. And actually, as I did my study this week for our sermon, the writer did this several times. He opens a section and closes a section with almost identical words. They didn't realize it. until I was studying this week. But the writer is now concluding this passionate plea for them to not leave the faith. If you remember, the whole reason that the writer wrote the book of Hebrews is because they were contemplating leaving the Christian faith and going back to the old way of living. And he encourages them to bear with or to suffer the exhortation that he has just given to them. And that's where we're going to spend our time this morning as we wrap up this series. So if you will turn with me to Hebrews chapter 13, the scriptures will be up on the TVs if you need that. But we will read the last few scriptures of this chapter. Starting in verse 22, and it says, And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. Know that our brother Timothy has been set free with whom I shall see if he comes shortly, comes to you shortly. Greet all those who rule over you and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all. Amen. Let's pray this morning. Father, we thank you for your word. And Lord, we thank you for coming to this day. Even though I knew that we would eventually end our study, I have not anticipated it like those who sit in the church this morning have anticipated it. But that's okay. But I have enjoyed my time studying. Father, and I just ask that as we close out this series with these words this morning, God, that you would speak to us yet again from your scripture. Let us hear the words that you would speak to us. And Father, I ask that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you would anoint the words that I say, that they would be your words, and that you would anoint our ears to hear what you would speak to us. And we thank you for it. In Jesus' name, amen. Amen. Interesting question. How many of you love technology? Hmm. Mixed review. That's interesting. You know, technology allowed you to drive to church this morning without getting wet. Unless you're Charles and he is on his bike, but that's fine. But still, he has a motorized bike of all that, and so technology is great. I was speaking with someone this week, and we

were just talking about how interesting and how far technology has come just in the past five to ten years. It's hard to think about. And myself, being a very young 47 years old... Hey, good, you guys didn't laugh. Someone did, but that's fine. He just remembers back when he was 47. Long ago. Yeah. But I was thinking just in my own lifetime, the drastic change in life from when I was a kid to now is wild. You know, we still had phones with cords in the house. And I remember when beepers were just coming out and that was all the fad. You could find out someone was trying to get in touch with you by getting a phone number. You remember those? I'm like, I didn't, someone's trying to, what phone number is that? You didn't even have a phone to look up what phone number was trying to get in touch with you. You just had to go call it and think, well, here we go. But as I was sitting in my office this week, I began to think about my final sermon. And I knew the phrase that I was going to teach on this week. I picked it out several weeks ago that I was planning. I knew exactly where I was going to go with bearing with this exhortation that has been given. And he is imploring them to hear the stirring address that he's just made. There's a lot of people think that Hebrews was a sermon. It was just one... sermon that he was giving to the church in Jerusalem, and he wants them to hear this address that he's making, this passionate plea that he is giving them. And so I wanted to bring this same concept to this sermon this morning and to recall the exhortations that this book and myself have given as I have preached through it. And I began to look back at all the sermons I preached. And if you have that little card on your desk, you see it's been 18 months of going through the book of Hebrews. There have been a grand total of 66 sermons, 67 if you count today. So how do you research and combine all the information from 66 sermons to gather what you have said out of the book? Thus, the love of technology. Al, baby, because I was able to, fascinatingly enough, load all 66 of these sermons into AI and ask it to analyze those sermons and pull out common threads of exhortation that I have used throughout the whole book. Now, I'm not picking everything that it said because I said a lot of things in the last 18 months from the book of Hebrews. I will also make this. It did not write my sermon. I thought through every sentence and typed everyone out. It is my sermon. But it compiled 66 sermons with over 170,000 words and shot out a few bullet points in about 45 seconds. Just absolutely amazing. So this morning, that's going to be the bulk of our sermon. I picked out a couple of these, four of them to be exact, of the exhortations that are given in this book. But before we go through those exhortations, I want to kind of set the foundation for what the author means with this concept of bearing with or suffering the words of exhortation that has been given. So we'll look at verse 22 again, and it says, And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. I really identify with that. It seems like it's been a long series, but it's just been a few words. So as we look at this phrase, bear with the word of exhortation, I want to just kind of break these down because the word bear with, other translations use suffer the word. These are concepts or words we don't really use in today's vocabulary. Because when I say suffer something, we think of pain and hardship and suffering is not a great thing, but the writer wants them to suffer the word that has been given to them. So there's two words here. The Greek word which is translated bear with or suffer is the word *anekomohi*. You can try to spell that if you want. And it translates as to hold oneself up against, kind of like a measuring line. It's to measure yourself against this or to put up with. Another way to say it, which we've talked about, is to hold up under. It's like a heavy weight that's been put on your shoulders, and it's to stand and to bear the weight or to suffer the weight that has been given to you or to endure what has been said. The word used for exhortation is *paraklesis*, and it is a coming alongside for help. The *para* is like a coming alongside, and the *klesis* is helping, and it can include encouragement, comfort, correction. or persistent urging. So we have this idea of enduring this persistent urging or this encouragement or the maybe correction at times. And it's enduring the transforming, let me get my words right, not transferring, transforming pressure of God's word in the season that it is received. So we all know how life goes, right? There's some good seasons. There's some rainy seasons. There's some winter seasons. There's seasons of encouragement, but there are also seasons of correction. And as I thought about this, I began to read some commentaries, and I just want to quote two of my favorite commentators as they kind of talked about this

concept of bearing with exhortation. One is from Alexander McLaren. I really like how he states things. And he says it this way, in the same way that the writer is, he's asking them to bear with this. McLaren says that he asked the reader to understand and acknowledge that faithful preaching often wounds before it heals, stating that truth is not always pleasant, but it is always necessary. I feel like that was true in several sermons that I preached. Charles Spurgeon, along the same lines, made this quote about the conclusion of Hebrews chapter 13. He says, The same gospel which comforts the saint alarms the sinner and rebukes the careless. These are all things that the word of God does to us. So we are called to suffer the word of exhortation, to hold ourselves up against the teachings and conform to them. And it's not because of my words. but rather it's because of the truth of the word of God. I hope you don't conform to my words, but I hope you conform to the word of God, to the scripture that we have. Because I know as I looked back and thought back about this series, there have been passages in this book that have been very challenging. There have been passages in this book that have been very encouraging. And we are called to not dismiss those challenging times, but rather to let the Holy Spirit do the work that He needs to do in our hearts so that He can make us like the man or the woman that He wants us to be. So, with that, here are the words of exhortation that the compilation of the sermons that have been taught and the book of Hebrews itself have come out of the last 18 months of preaching. And so you do have this little card on your seat. If you don't have one, there's some at the info desk. And it's basically this concept. And it's just asking this question about as we've gone through this book and all these sermons, where has the Holy Spirit personally focused your attention in your own life? Because there's some things that have stood out. There's some things that have been very encouraging. There are some things that have been very challenging. And maybe it's even fostered a deeper growth in your spiritual walk. And so I just thought it was interesting. I began to think about this myself as we've gone through this and really witnessed some areas of growth in my own life. And these cards, if you'd like to turn them in, you can. You sure don't have to. You can keep them. You can discuss them with your family or personally, whatever you want to do. But I found four exhortations that I wanted to speak about this morning, and this is what it all started with. And it kind of broke it up into chapters, which was kind of neat. But the first exhortation that I see is that we are exhorted to see Jesus for who he truly is. So Hebrews 3, verse 1 says, Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and high priest of our confession, Christ Jesus. The whole point of this opening four chapters is for us to consider Jesus Christ and to see him for who he truly is. So in those chapters, we learn that Jesus is better than the prophets who spoke, the old testament he's better than the angels he's better than moses he's better than joshua melchizedek better than the earthly substitute that the old testament prescribed for dealing with sins in the law and that was the whole premise the whole idea i had behind this study of the book of hebrews and why i called it jesus is better because Jesus... I was trying to word this in a way, but... The whole idea is there's nothing that you can compare to Jesus and be like, well, Jesus is good, but man, I think this is a better choice than Jesus. And there's no facet in life, there's no idea, there's no choice, there's no concept where we can weigh Jesus with something else and say, well, Jesus just isn't good enough. And that's the whole concept that the author opens up with is to see Jesus for who he truly is. And that means that he is better than anything else. And as I read this, it really hit me. What a great message for the world that we live in. Because you remember the technology we were talking about with A.I.? ? The internet and the connectivity we have with the world today is absolutely astounding. If you have your phone, I don't carry my phone up here, but you can get in touch with anybody in the world anywhere at any time right now. You have the culmination of human technology and information and knowledge in the palm of your hand that you play games with. But you can get in touch with anybody. You can share the gospel with any point, any place in the world through this little piece of technology in your hand. And while that is great, the enemy also has the same ability to spread his lies and his deceit and his tricks through that same piece of technology. And I heard Ms. Arlene say, she's not in here this morning, but I heard her say this past week, that you and I are exposed to more information in one day than someone who lived in the 1400s experienced in a lifetime. Think

about that. Granted, there's no way to measure this. It's one of those sayings just to try to help us understand how busy we are and how much information we have to process on a daily basis. It is almost numbing the information that we can have in a day. And the enemy takes advantage of that. Because a lot of the stuff we see and we read and we listen to for news, they're not pointing out the yay points of life. They're pointing out all the negative stuff, all the bad things that are happening. And what does that build inside of us? This fountain of hope, this rejuvenation of joy that, man, this is exactly what is supposed to be happening today. No, as we take these things in, it's like it builds and it just... It weighs us down with this pressure of hopelessness. I mean, golly, to think of all of this stuff that's going on. There's just no hope in the world today. There's just no joy. There's no peace. It's all bad. God must be losing. God can't be good because the world is just that bad. But that is the exact opposite of who Jesus truly is. And that is the whole point. The enemy tries to pour all of this into us is because it blinds us to who Jesus really is. Because if we want to say Jesus is really good, well, then there should be some good things happening. And there is. But they're overshadowed by these other things. I would dare you to take an inventory of your life and compare it to anyone in the ancestors of your family and tell me you don't have it better than they do. There are some, your ancestors might have been extremely rich, but they didn't have air conditioning. They didn't have cars. They couldn't travel the world and be somewhere in less than 24 hours at any point at any day. There's this, and that's just on material sides of it. I mean, I look at my life, and I think of my kids' life compared to what I had at their age, and I'm thinking, wow. I was talking to my dad this week. I was like, my kids are so far advanced spiritually than where I was at their age, it's not even funny. And it's a celebration to me. It's a joy. And it's because of this realization of who Jesus is and understanding that he is doing things for us and he is providing and he is giving us a life that only comes from his goodness. But it sometimes gets overlooked by everything that we want to say is going wrong. So our first exhortation is that we have to see Jesus for who he really is. Because when we do that, we begin to have confidence in him. We begin to have confidence in our life. And it really leads us as we continue forward in this book to experience the other exhortations that the writer has for us in this book of Hebrews. But this is foundational to a Christian walk, is truly understanding who Jesus is and having a clear picture of that. The second exhortation I have as two parts of the same thing. One, we are to draw near to God with confidence, and we are to hold fast without drifting away. So Hebrews 4, verses 14 and 16. And what I love is he starts this section in chapter four with it, and he ends this section in chapter 10 with almost identical verbiage in his passage. So he says, seeing then that we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us come boldly into the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. I did a lot of inventorying of my life this week as I looked back over these last 18 months. And it's interesting because it seems that I am never complacent in my relationship with God. It's never just flatlined. It's going either up or it's going down. I'm either going to God or I'm like, no thanks, I'm going away from God. I'm never just holding status quo. And that is true of life. Because I have said many times in this study, we never accidentally choose to do God's way. We don't ever just unintentionally start drifting towards God and be like, oh, look at this. God, I'm doing exactly what you said on not even thinking about it. That doesn't ever happen. That's not the natural inclination of our flesh. Our flesh wants to get away from God. So the idea is that to draw near and to hold fast to God is to act and move with intention. Purposely making choices in our life to deny the flesh and to walk in the Spirit. Purposely making choices. Consciously saying, you know what? I will do this. I won't do that. And anytime we come up against something where we want to say, you know what, I'm not going to do that, the flesh has this huge pity party inside of us like, why? Come on, just one more time. We could do this. And then tomorrow you can walk towards the holy stuff. In the sermons that we preached on this section, I presented drawing near to God as entering into His presence boldly, as it says here in chapter 4. That we have access because of Jesus, and we draw near with thanksgiving and with worship and with experiencing the grace and the

mercy when we come to Him with a sincere heart. That's how we draw near to God, denying what we truly want to do and saying, you know what, God, I choose you. It's a conscious choice to choose Jesus. And guys, I can't speak for you, but I feel like daily I'm having to make choices to say, you know what? I'm not going to do that. There's just this drawing to say, you know what? Let's go have a little fun. No, I can't. I have to, I can't just be like, well, yeah, that's a great idea. I'll do that today. That's not how it works. Because once you give in, it just gets harder and harder to stop. So many things running through my brain. See, we have to choose daily Jesus over ourselves and over our flesh. And it's not a single act. I can't say, you know what, I'm not doing that and never have to worry about facing that temptation again. It has to become a... an expression of our daily living. It has to be something that we walk in daily, kind of like brushing your teeth and taking a shower and putting deodorant on. You know, you skip a couple days and people are like, bro, what is up with your life? That's the same concept with drawing near to Jesus. It has to become a daily habit, which is why I have encouraged us to read your Bible daily, to spend time in prayer daily, build these habits that help us focus our attention on Jesus and to choose his way over our ways. In the sermons that we talked about holding fast, I define that as saying that we have to choose Jesus because there's going to be many opportunities to get discouraged. Just turn on the news at any point in time of the day. You get it 24 hours a day. You can be discouraged at any point if you'd like. But we have to hold fast... to this lifestyle of choosing Jesus without drifting, because that's our natural inclination. So when we do this... We have to remain steady and to not bend with the waves and the trials that come at us every day. How many of you have experienced trials and waves throughout the day? They just come, right? There's different things that hit us. We're not expecting it. But they want to get us off balance and they want to keep us unsteady and to just not be able to make the choices that we should. So I define that in our sermons and what it means for me personally, and I hope for you as well. It means to keep believing no matter what my eyes think they see. It means to stay connected with the church that God has planted you in. If God has planted you into this church, it's not for no reason. There's a purpose that you're here. And guess what? It's real easy to get distracted and think, oh, those people, man, I ain't got time for them. It's to encourage one another and to keep the person you're sitting next to and the person they're sitting next to, it's to encourage them to continue holding fast. Because I don't know if you know this, you can look to your right or left, whoever you look at, there is encouragement for them to let go. There are things hitting them in their life that's like, you know what? I'm tired of this. I read. I do what I'm supposed to do. I make the good choices, but still I'm struggling with this trouble. This is just unending. I'm going to give up. We put on pretty faces here on Sunday morning, but a lot of us struggle with this concept of wanting to throw our hands up and like, you know what? There's got to be a better choice than this. And if there's not, at least I can drown my sorrows in whatever vice I choose for the day. And I don't have to think about it. We're all going through these things. You're not singular in this. You're not alone in this. There is this constant pull on all of us to drift away from what God wants. That's the enemy's plan for your life. If God's plan is for perfection and wholeness, the enemy's plan is for you to drift and wander and to fall away. And there's never any point in your life where those two forces aren't pulling on your spirit. The enemy never takes a day off. Jesus never takes a day off. We can't take a day off. That's the whole concept of holding fast to Jesus. And as we draw near and hold fast, typically in life, these are where seasons of correction come. This is why it's even more difficult to draw near and to hold fast. Because God and sin don't mix. The closer we get to God, there's things in our life that Jesus says, you know what? We need to deal with your anger. You know what? We need to deal with your lust. You know what? We need to deal with your lying. There are things that God begins to point out that we can't be like, oh, it's fine, God. Don't worry about it. It's okay. I got it under control. But as we draw near to God, there's these things he begins to put pressure on that we have to let go of. Drawing near to God means we have to be conformed to the image of his son, Jesus. It's not your image. You don't fit how you sit today. To be formed in the image of Jesus means there's some things that's got to move. There's some angles that's got to stretch. There's some pieces that's got to be pulled out. there's some pieces that have to be put in. And the

one who does this pushing and prodding and poking and convicting, it's the Holy Spirit. His job is to make us into the image, the mold of Jesus Christ. And He does that by us drawing near to Him, holding fast to Him, denying our flesh, and walking in the Spirit. It's in those moments that we often feel correction. How many of us love correction? We love being told how we're wrong. We love being told how we're incomplete. None of us do. But it's often in these seasons of really trying to draw near to God. And if we're going to be honest, that's really the reason we drift. There are things in our life we would rather not face. There are things in my life that I'm like, you know what, God? Today's not the day to deal with that. I'm not ready for it. And when we say that, we begin to walk away from God. We don't like the pressing into His image. So the writer concludes this portion of talking about drawing near and holding fast in chapter 10 with these passages, and it's almost identical to chapter 4. He says, "...therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the holiness..." "...the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us through the veil, that is his flesh, and having a high priest over the house of God, 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. Let us hold fast to the confession of our faith without wavering, without drifting." For he who promised is faithful. Verse 24 says, See, the reason that we have to draw near and hold fast and we have to come and be a part of the church that God has planted is we need the encouragement We need the camaraderie to make it. Because it doesn't say as the day approaches it's going to get easier. It doesn't. It only gets more difficult. And I have two more quick points that I'm going to make as we do this. And so as we've gone through this, we have looked at we have to see Jesus for who he truly is. We are then to draw near and to hold fast without drifting away or drawing back. And then chapters 11 and 12, we find the exhortation to live daily by faith. So this is how this, these are the scriptures to introduce this in Hebrews chapter 10, verses 38 through 11, chapter 1. It says, "Now the just shall live by faith. But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. I hope that as we enter this exhortation, you remember the sermons. We did a whole little series about chapter 11, and we called it By Faith. It's kind of what this... The whole chapter is about faith, and it's a whole list of people who we get their name and we get, by faith they did, da-da-da. And I looked at each one of them specifically, and I took what the Scripture said, and I built an example out of what it means to live daily by faith by looking at these people. So just to jog your memory, we started off with Abel. Abel offered an excellent sacrifice to God. As faithful people, we must offer excellent sacrifices to God. Enoch walked before God. If we're going to live out a life of faith, we have to walk out our faith before God. Noah's faith caused him to prepare and provide safety for his family. Abraham's faith led him to obey, to leave his land, to set up in a strange land, eventually to offer his son, when God told him to, All of that came through Abraham being willing to obey through his faith. And we built a practical platform to see what living by faith really means for us today. So this morning, when you go back and read Hebrews chapter 11, it's not a museum to go and look at the heroes of the faith of old and think, wow, they were so great. It's not where we go to admire the faith of someone who lived in a different time in a different land. It's rather to be a mirror to reflect the faith that we should have in our own life. As we read through chapter 11 and you build this idea of faith, it's giving you principles of faith that you should begin to include in your own life. Because you know what's interesting? The faith that they lived by is the faith that you and I are called to live by. It's the same faith. You want to know the next best part of that? Both faiths are anchored in the same person. Their faith was anchored in God. Our faith is anchored in God. So as we read each of those stories, we have the ability to see how faith should look because we serve the same God. Chapter 12 moves into this life being compared to a race, this race of faith that we have to run with endurance, laying aside sins and those things that, sins are these things that brings death and it separates us from God and it's doing things that God does not want us to do. We can go into a whole list of that if we want, but you can read it as well. But God also calls us to lay aside every weight that distracts us. And we talked about these weights as there could be good things in your life that

are distracting you from God. These things, God says that we have to lay them aside if we want to live daily this life of faith and to run this race that he's called us to run. How many of you have ever tried to run distracted? Wait, wait, we're not. Anybody in here runners? How many of us have ever tried to walk and look at our phone at the same time? Oh, man. We can't even walk sometimes without getting distracted. The whole idea of this daily walk with God is we can't be distracted by things in life that want to pull us away, cause us to trip and fall away from God. There's this idea of losing and setting aside these things that want to distract us from what he's calling us to. Our Christian life is a life lived by faith when we put our trust in God through Jesus Christ. Anything that wants to distract us from that, we have to put away. The last exhortation comes from the final chapter of the book. I look back and I pulled seven sermons from this chapter. I thought it was going to at least be two or three and I'd be done. But it was not. In this final chapter, we are exhorted to live like citizens of God's kingdom. We talked about this in the manner of being an unshakable kingdom. Hebrews chapter 12 sets it up this way. It says, Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For God is a consuming fire. See, in this chapter, we're given very clear instructions on what a citizen of the unshakable kingdom strives to have in his life. These are things that we do. These are things that we submit ourselves to. We make choices to have in our life. And it starts in verse 1 by saying, love one another. He just starts off with the elephant in the room. Jesus said this, By this the world will know that you are my disciples. How? If you love one another. Dang it, Jesus. Why'd you have to make it so hard? It's easy to put my faith in you. But if I... If I got to love Louie all the time, man, I feel for you, Ms. Crystal. There's this caveat that he puts in there. There's this thing that we have to do. We have to love one another. This is how we show that we're disciples of Jesus. He doesn't stop there, though. He says we are to love one another. We are to show hospitality. We are to honor marriage. We're to be content. We're to follow faithful leaders. We're to offer praise. And then he ends it with the funnest thing in the world. We are to pray. These should be earmarks or these should be characteristics of someone who is a disciple of Jesus Christ. So if I could boil this last chapter down to a single sentence, I think it would sound like this. Live differently because Christ has made you a new creation. See, when Christ comes into our life, we don't just get to go back to the old life we lived, hanging out in the same places we hung out, doing the same things we did back then. There's this calling for us to step up. There's this calling for us to step out, to be different, to have different characteristics in our life that we live out for the world to see. It's real easy. And we know we've met these people. Oh, I believe in Jesus. But then you look at their life thinking. I don't know if we have the same Jesus in mind. We are to live differently because Christ has made us a new creation. And I feel like these four things have kind of highlighted the study that we've had in the book of Hebrews. I know that there's probably a lot more. But as the writer ends this book, I would... encourage you and ask the same thing of you, to bear with these words of exhortation. See, he wasn't asking them to just remember what he said. He was asking them to remain under, to allow the words and the content of this book to shape their lives and to make them different. The whole concept of following Jesus is that we are saved from a life of sin and death into a life of life, of joy and happiness. Life and death, they're not the same. You can't say that you have life and live dead. You can't say that you're dead and be alive. There's this difference that has to be in our lives. So he's saying, let these exhortations shape you and make you into the image of Jesus Christ as you daily walk out your faith, seeking to draw near and to hold fast to him because you understand who Jesus is. That's the book of Hebrews backwards. It all starts with understanding who Jesus is. That should bring us to an understanding and a knowledge, man, I want to be like that. I want to draw near to that. I want to hold fast to that as we live out this faith daily. So I would ask you, don't just remember them, but to walk them out daily in your life. And I know Guys, I know that it's not always been easy. I personally can attest to broken toes. I have felt gut punched at times as I have preached sermons. And I do believe that there are several of us that have had a knuckle sandwich or two as we've wrestled with the concepts that this book is bringing to us. But there's a benefit to wrestling with these things. This is where I believe the suffering part of this

comes out, where we suffer with it, we wrestle with it, we work to internalize it. Because as we do that, and as I have looked back personally on my own life, I see the growth that God has brought just to me. I hope in your own life you can see that as well. If not, that little card right there, say, Pastor Will, you're doing a horrible job. Do better. I'll work on it. I promise. But I see how God has brought maturity into my life in areas that I was extremely childish in. My faith was very immature. But I can say with all honesty, my faith today is stronger than it was in January of 25 because of the study of Hebrews. So this morning in closing, I've given us four exhortations that I've wanted to revisit from the 66 sermons that we've preached out of this book. And I really do believe that these exhortations match what the writer was trying to bring to his audience when he wrote it. And it's not because I'm a great preacher. It's because I have strived to preach the word in context and to draw out the truth of the words that is written for us. Because God's scripture is relevant for you and I today. We can experience life by reading this book, by studying this book. So this morning I would exhort, I would strongly encourage, I hope that I have passionately persuaded you to hear and read and study the book of Hebrews. Because first we see who Jesus truly is, and he's the only option for salvation in this world. See, if I get my view of Jesus wrong, there's no hope. He's the only Messiah coming. If I get it correct, when this life is over, I get to enter into the rest that he has prepared for us in heaven. If I get it wrong, I don't. There's only death and hell waiting for those who don't see Jesus for who he truly is. Next, we are to draw near and to hold fast without drifting away. See, God invites us to boldly come to his throne. And a natural result of drawing near to God is for us to be shaped into the image of his son, to have Christ formed within us so that we can be the message of salvation to the world who is dying. The third exhortation was to live by faith daily. Our biblical heroes demonstrate a facet of faith that we all need to learn from in our lives. And what's beautiful is the same God that they served, you and I serve. And that should motivate us to live out this faith and to run this race that God has given us so that we can hear those amazing words, well done, my good and faithful servant. The final exhortation is for us to live like citizens of an unshakable kingdom. We are to live differently from the world because we have moved from death to life. We have moved from sinner to saint. We are in Christ, a new creation. We should live like it. Why don't you stand with me this morning? For the past 18 months, week after week, the writer of Hebrews has exhorted us not merely to know more, but to keep looking to Jesus, to keep drawing near, to keep holding fast, to keep living by faith, to keep becoming the people Christ has redeemed us to be. So I thought on this message this morning. And here's the words that I believe God wants us to hear from this study of Hebrews. Helena Valley Faith Center. God says to us, this is how I want you to live. That's the whole book of Hebrews wrapped up in a sentence. This is how I want you to live out your Christian faith. See Jesus for who he is. Draw near and hold fast. Daily walk out your faith and live like a citizen of the kingdom of heaven in this world. And it doesn't stop here. It continues. We live this life. We walk it out. We become more like Jesus.