



NG Study Guide: Hebrews 10:19-39 :: “Jesus Offers Greater Assurance” Pt. 2 [12.10.23]

Love God + know the Bible better:

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. *Leader note: Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.*

The Study

Thesis: In the midst of trials, persecution, questions, and doubt, God wants us to have confidence in our faith. Today we’ll discover how the perfect sacrifice of Jesus gives us the assurance to stand before God and worship Him.

Subject: Assurance Offered through Jesus

Object: Live for God with Confidence

Context: The first half of Hebrews 10 focuses on the perfect sacrifice of Jesus and it’s sanctifying works. Verse 19 is a turning point in the letter; having developed a theological framework of the superiority of Jesus, the author now spends the rest of the letter exhorting believers to live faithfully according to God’s call. As we appreciate our position of perfection before Christ because of His perfect sacrifice, and experience the process of sanctification as we become more like Jesus, we can live with assurance of what we believe.

A. Assurance Leads to Worship [19-25]

God desires to lead His people into worship. Christ’s sacrifice gives us assurance that we can worship God fully and completely. How does assurance lead to worship?

1. Approach God [19-22]

In our sin, we were separated from God and unable to enter into complete worship of Him. The sacrifice of Jesus has given us the opportunity to worship God freely and completely by removing any barriers that stand in our way. Jesus tore the veil that separated God’s people from the Holiest, God’s place of dwelling in the temple. As our High Priest, Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice (once for all) so that we could have complete access to God. As we draw near to God, we can have confidence He will draw near to us (c.f. James 4:8). Worship begins by approaching God.

a. With Boldness [19-20]

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh....

The author uses an active present tense verb when describing how we should approach God. Because Jesus has given us full access to God and placed His righteousness on our account, we should have continual confidence and boldness to come before God (c.f. Hebrews 4:14-16). Whether it’s to come before Him in praise or repentance, we can have confidence He will welcome us all the same. While the

Jews experienced a sense of separation from the presence of God with the veil closing off the Holy of Holies, those under the new covenant can enter into God's complete presence with boldness.

b. With Renewed Appreciation [20-22]

²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The phrase "a new and living way" notes that though the sacrifice Jesus made occurred two thousand years ago, God doesn't view its effect on our relationship with Him with any less satisfaction. God gave His Son as the epitomical act of love and that love does not falter. We can approach God in a way that was never possible under the old covenant. Each day we can approach God with the same sense of awe and wonder that is found in worshiping Him without any obstacles or hindrances. Because we have been completely cleansed, there is nothing that blocks us from seeing the fullness of God's glory and the beauty therein.

2. Reflect Jesus [23-25]

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word worship comes from the root *worship* - in essence, someone or something's worthiness. Worship is more than the act of singing. Worship is the act of demonstrating God's worthiness of our time, talents, and treasure. God alone is worthy of worship and deserves worship in every aspect. The sacrifice of Jesus doesn't only cleanse us of our sins, but gives us new life where we might be transformed and reflect Jesus in every area of our lives as an act of worship.

a. Reflect Jesus in Your Words [23]: Placing our faith in Jesus is an act of confession; as we believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord, it must be joined together with a declaration of the mouth (c.f. Romans 10:9). Assurance in the gospel of Jesus gives us the confidence to worship God through declaring our affection for and affiliation with Him.

b. Reflect Jesus with Your Love and Good Works [24]: As the author noted in the first half of Hebrews 10, believers are seen by God as perfect, while at the same time are in the process of sanctification (being made more holy; i.e. Like Jesus). As we grow in our assurance of the gospel and Jesus' sacrifice for us, the Spirit will work in our hearts and empower us to love, serve, and honor one another. This way of living makes much of Jesus as an act of worship and is one of the primary ways non-believers will identify us as disciples of Christ (c.f. John 13:35).

c. Reflect Jesus in the Gathering [25]: As the Hebrew audience endured persecution for their faith, the author urges them to continue to gather and worship God with their lives. This exhortation of the author requires us to be actively involved in the community of faith. We cannot show Christ-like love to others if we're not with others regularly. While we can and should be spending time worshiping privately, it's necessary for our health (and the health of the body of Christ) that we spend time considering one another. We should seek ways to encourage and inspire to love like Christ while demonstrating that love through good works. This is the natural progression of every believer according to God's will (c.f. Ephesians 2:8-10). Assurance empowers us to reflect Jesus as His unified people.

Whether it's singing songs, declaring His name and gospel to others, or serving one another with Christ-like love, our assurance in the work of Jesus leads us to worship in every area of our lives where we live, work, study, play, and worship.

B. Warning Against Rejecting Christ's Sacrifice [26-31]

The great sacrifice of Jesus gives us an assurance of the promises of the gospel. Yet there are still some who choose to reject what Christ offers. Here, the author warns what happens to those who reject Christ and the sacrifice He made.

1. We Cannot Choose Sin and Christ's Sacrifice

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins....

a. Willful Sinning: We all struggle with sin and will continue to do so until Christ establishes the new heaven and earth. In a sense, all sin is deliberate. The type of sinning the author is talking about here is sin that results from a willful rejection of Christ's sacrifice and purposeful opposition to the work of God.

b. No Other Sacrifice But Jesus: If one rejects Christ's sacrifice, there is no other sacrifice sufficient to cleanse one of their sins completely and permanently. If we receive Christ's sacrifice and receive the forgiveness of sins and new holy life from Him, we cannot continue in sin (c.f. 1 John 3:9).

2. All Must Prepare for Judgement

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

We cannot opt-out of God's sovereignty and justice by rejecting Christ's sacrifice. Both believer and unbeliever will stand before the throne of God on judgement day and give an account of our lives. Only those who have placed their faith in Jesus will be granted forgiveness as Jesus stands at our side to testify on our behalf.

3. The Implications of Rejecting Christ's Sacrifice

29 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 he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

a. Disgrace God: The idea of the Son of God being trampled underfoot speaks to a severe lack of respect, honor, and reverence for the gift God offers through Jesus. Though we have a God of grace and mercy, God will protect the glory due His name and bring about judgement. The idea of "vengeance" in verse 30 is not meant to hint at vindictiveness, but at complete justice for transgressions.

b. Depreciate Christ's Position: In rejecting the new covenant, we are declaring Christ's blood as common. In the context of the Jewish believers, it implied that the readers found no difference between Christ's blood and the blood of the animal sacrifice of the old covenant. All else who reject Christ's sacrifice are making a definitive statement that they do not believe Christ's blood to be special, significant, or necessary for the cleansing of sins.

c. Insult the Spirit: Before His arrest, Jesus tells us that the Spirit will convict the world of sin and lead those who listen into all truth, that they might repent and turn to Jesus and receive grace (John 16:8-15). Rejecting the sacrifice of Jesus insults the Spirit of God and the work that He's doing.

None of the verses here should read as a threat. This is God giving us a warning and calling us to respond the immense love that He has that was proved through the sacrifice Jesus made for us. We can have assurance and do not have to fear the warning given here if we place our faith in Jesus and His sacrifice.

C. Assurance Leads to Endurance [32-39]

In light of the persecution being faced by the Jewish believers, the author relates their assurance of salvation through Christ's sacrifice with the ability to endure and persevere. Assurance would not be necessary if there wasn't potential to struggle or doubt.

a. Remember God's Faithfulness [32]

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

The author calls the readers to consider their prior sufferings for the faith. This wasn't meant to add insult to injury or cause discouragement for their ongoing persecution. Rather, this was a reminder to reflect on all the past instances that God had been faithful to empower them to persevere. When we remember how far God has brought us, it gives us confidence that He'll continue to help us endure as we live according to His ways (c.f. 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5).

b. Endure Alongside Others [33-34a]

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; ^{34a} for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods...

Here the author notes that this persecution wasn't in isolation. These believers were part of a greater community that were enduring together. If we are to navigate persecution and trials well, it must be alongside other faithful and like-minded followers of Jesus who can encourage and support us.

c. Accept Earthly Loss for Heavenly Gain [34b-39]

^{34b} knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Persecution will often result in earthly loss. Endurance doesn't mean we avoid these losses; it means we accept them. God is going to use the testing of our faith to grow us spiritually (c.f. Romans 5:1-5) and remind us of our heavenly reward found in Christ's inheritance that is given to us. We must set our eyes on things above (c.f. Colossians 3:2) and remember what matters most. God has secured victory over death and the enemy, and we can have assurance in the promises of the gospel having been made secure through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

Contemplation & Prayer

- 1. Pray that God would give you increased assurance that results in genuine worship.**
- 2. Consider ways God may be calling you to help those around you endure through hardships.**

Study Guide Qs

Q1. How might our confidence to approach God impact our hearts of worship?

Q2. How can believers encourage one another to worship in ways other than music? What are some ways you would like to grow in worshiping God with your whole life?

Q3. Share one way God reminded you of His faithfulness through a trial this past year.

Q4. What are some ways believers can support one another through trials and persecution?

“Disciples Who Dig Deeper” (optional or alternative study)

1. This article gives more insight on what it means to sin willfully: <https://www.gotquestions.org/willful-sin.html>

2. Some wisdom on what it means to draw near to God: <https://www.gotquestions.org/draw-near-to-God.html>

Love your neighbors (inside + outside the group) better:

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationship with their neighbors inside or outside the group?
2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbors inside or outside the group?

Disciples who make disciples:

1. Who would like to share how they recently sought to make disciples?
2. Here is a disciple making idea to consider for the weeks ahead: **Many people bear their burdens alone. Spend time talking to your neighbors about their struggles (as they're willing) and offer tangible ways to help.**

Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:

Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer. Encourage each participant to pray, but don't force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

Leader Notes:

1. **Seek to involve as many group participants as possible.** A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.
2. **Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on** in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.
3. **The “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section provides some optional or alternative study and discussion activities.** As a group leader, you can choose to focus on the “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section, include part of that section in your group meeting, or not use it at all. Try to give the group sufficient notice so they can be prepared for the meeting.
4. **Every time you meet consider asking:**
 - a. **What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing?** If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don't hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.