

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #13, Chapter 10:19-31

Read Hebrews 10:1-31 in preparation for this lesson. Ask the Lord to help you grow in wisdom and understanding of His ways.

Keep in mind the recipients of this letter are a mixed group of people just like any church congregation. There are believers at all stages of growth, as well as unbelievers, who range from seeking God to scoffing at Him. The believers in this group have endured suffering and persecution and are now trying to withstand the wiles of false teachers who want to lure anyone they can back to Judaism and the sacrificial system known by their fathers. Just like any good preacher, the writer of this letter addresses his comments to the majority, those who are believers, trying to minister to their spiritual needs, while at times he addresses those on the sidelines, seeking to win them to Christ and to woo them back to the right path.

1. What do we have according to verse 19 and what does it allow us to do?
 - a. How is that possible? See also 10:16-18.

2. What term does the writer use to describe Jesus' flesh (verse 20)?
 - a. How is Jesus' flesh or body like the veil in the temple? See Matt. 27:51, then look up Heb. 9:11-14 and then read Is. 53:1-12.

3. What are we to do since we have a great high priest who rules over the house of God? See verse 22.
 - a. What qualities should our hearts have as we draw near to God (verse 22)?

4. Define *conscience* [Strong's #4893].

5. What kind of conscience is described here?
 - a. What other kinds of consciences are described in the Scriptures? See Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Cor. 8:7; 2 Cor. 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 9:9, 14.

 - b. According to verse 22 what can happen to even an evil conscience?

6. Unlike most of us, the recipients of this letter were familiar with the preparations necessary to enter God's presence. What things needed to be done? See Num. 19:16-19 for an example. How does that coincide with what the author is describing in verse 22?

7. Since we have confidence to enter God's presence because of our great high priest what else are we urged to do according to verse 23? Why?

8. Just what is the *confession of our hope*? See 2 Cor. 9:13; 1 Tim. 6:12; Heb. 3:1, 6; 4:14; 10:23.

9. This command would have been especially poignant to the Hebrews readers because of the ones in their midst who were wavering in the faith. They had forgotten the crucial truth contained in this verse. What is the key to holding fast to your hope *without wavering* (verse 23)?

10. Think of one area of your life where you need to be reminded that *He who promised is faithful*. Write down 3 ways you can shore up your thoughts so they will not falter.

11. Since we have confidence to enter God's presence because of our great high priest, we are to draw near, we are to hold fast, and we are also to do what according to verse 24?

12. Define *consider* [Strong's #2657].
 - a. Define *stimulate* (NIV *spur*; KJV *provoke* [Strong's #3948]).

13. How are you doing in these three areas—drawing near, holding fast, considering how to stir up others? Which of these three areas do you need to give special attention to? What specific steps do you need to take to do so?

14. Besides encouraging others in the body, what else do we need to be mindful of according to verse 25? Why?

15. Verse 26 is connected to the previous verses by the transition word *for*. What do the two phrases—*forsaking the assembling together* and *sinning willfully*—have to do with each other?

16. Explain what it means to *willfully and deliberately* sin against what you know is the right thing to do. See also James 4:17. How is deliberately sinning different than falling into sin?

17. If we continue to willfully sin against the knowledge of the truth, what is the result (verses 26-27)?

18. What is the point of comparing the Law of Moses and the new covenant in verses 28-29?
 - a. What does the comparison in verses 28-29 have to do with “sinning willfully”?

 - b. Why would this person receive a severer punishment according to verses 28-29?

19. What awaits those who sin willfully according to verses 30-31?

20. If judgment and punishment await the person who sins willfully, what does this tell you about their spiritual condition? See also Jn. 3:36; 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 3:12; 4:2.

21. The writer of Hebrews urges us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. If we find a pattern of willful rebellion against what we know is right, then we

need to be suspicious of our “salvation.” We need to realize we may not be saved at all. And if we are not saved, then we deserve the full wrath of God. How can you escape this judgment from God?

What a sweetness there is when we stand fully assured of our faith and hope in Jesus Christ. Condemnation from God does not nip at our heels, rather His compassion welcomes us to come to Him. Though the day of Christ’s return is drawing near, His children have nothing to fear.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
—Fanny Crosby

Charles Spurgeon commenting on these verses states: “Notice the practical teaching of this great truth. If you have been thus washed, do not defile yourselves again. If, by God’s rich mercy, you have been delivered from the transgressions of the past, let gratitude move you to holy living, and endeavor, not only to grow in grace yourselves, but to help others in the same direction, that so the abounding mercy of God may have from us abundant praise. God grant it for his name’s sake! Amen.”¹

¹Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 51*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998)