

JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 8

Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

• Week 1:	Theme, Background and Overview	1:1 – 1:3
• Week 2:	Superiority of the Son to Angels	1:4 – 2:18
• Week 3:	Superiority of the Son to Moses and	3:1 – 3:6
	Warning on the Danger of Disobedience	3:7 – 4:13
• Week 4:	A 'Better' Position and	4:14 – 4:16
	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 1)	5:1 – 6:12
• Week 5:	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 2)	6:13 – 7:28
• Week 6:	A 'Better' Covenant and	8:1 – 8:13
	A 'Better' Sanctuary	9:1 – 9:10
• Week 7:	A 'Better' Sacrifice	9:11 – 10:18
• Week 8:	Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement	10:19 – 10:39
• Week 9:	Evidence of the Life of Faith	11:1 – 11:40
• Week 10:	Exhortation to Endurance of Faith	12:1 – 12:29
• Week 11:	Concluding Exhortations	13:1 – 13:25

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Exhortations (Heb 10:19–25)

"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, 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. 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."

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Exhortations (Heb 10:19–25)

- The Holy Spirit directs the author to give two bases for the exhortations:
- :19 Basis 1: Free, unfettered access to God
  - *"Therefore"* … means 'in light of the theological reasons presented in the first section (1:1 – 10:18), we now can have *BOLDNESS* to enter into the very presence of God!
  - Now that we have this access to the heavenly Holy of Holies, we need to learn how to use it!
  - Through our Melchizedekian High Priest, we have the privilege of access to the throne room in heaven!
  - In a very real way, NT believers are on better ground than the Levitical High Priests
    - They had access to the earthly Holy of Holies one day each year
    - We have ongoing, continuous access to the heavenly Holy of Holies!
- :20 We have access to the Father two ways:
  - First, it is a *new* way because it is based on the New Covenant through '*better*' blood
  - Second, it is a *living* way, based upon a personal relationship with a living Person

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Exhortations (Heb 10:19–25)

- :21 <u>Basis 2</u>: Through the sovereign power of our New High Priest
  - He is a '*great*' High Priest…a Melchizedekian High Priest
  - He is *'over the house of God'*…the actual heavenly throne of God
    - Moses was only a 'servant' in the house
- Four exhortations:
  1. :22 An Exhortation to Faith: *'Let us draw near'*
  2. :23 An Exhortation of Hope: *'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope'*
  3. :24 An Exhortation to Love: *'Let us consider one another'*
  4. :25 An Exhortation to Fellowship: *'Not forsaking the assembling…'*

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Warning Against Willfull Sin (Heb 10:26–31)

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

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Warning Against Willfull Sin (Heb 10:26–31)

- :26 The word '*for*' connects what the author is about to write with what he has just written
- The warning is: *'If we sin willfully'*
- *'If we sin'* is a conditional participle in the present tense
  - The author is not warning against a simple, isolated act of sin
  - Rather, he is warning against a certain sin habitually committed
    - The Greek word 'ἑκουσίως' (hekousiōs) denotes deliberate intention
  - In context, he is warning the Hebrew readers against returning to Judaism
  - In our day and age, we have numerous distractions and pulls that manifest habitually in our lives
- The Greek word for '*knowledge*' here is ἐπίγνωσις (epígnōsis), which means 'full precise and correct knowledge'
  - After reading the letter to the Hebrews, the readers will now have full knowledge of the enormity and severity of their defection if they return to Judaism

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Warning Against Willfull Sin (Heb 10:26–31)

- :26 First result of their apostasy: *'There is no longer remains a sacrifice for sins'*
  - Since they reject Jesus, there will be no other sacrifice
  - He was their final sacrifice
  - This is based on the OT principle that there were no sacrifices for certain sins:
    - These sins include adultery, murder and blasphemy (Num 15:29-31)
    - For these types of sins, Israelites could not offer a sacrifice
    - Instead, they were subject to the penalty of death (physical judgment)
- :27 Second result of their apostasy: *'A certain fearful expectation of judgment'*
  - That judgment being *'a fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries'*
  - Opinions are divided as to what this judgment entails…whether it is:
    - <u>Physical Judgment and Loss of Reward</u>:
      - The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70AD and the physical loss of life of the Hebrews that would return to Judaism
      - Or the physical judgment (and loss of reward) we as New Covenant believers will experience if we fail to forsake habitual sin
    - <u>Eternal Judgment</u>: A loss of salvation and eternal destruction in the lake of fire

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Warning Against Willfull Sin (Heb 10:26–31)

- :29 Another example of 'kal ve-chomer' (lesser to greater degree) logical reasoning:
  - Under Mosaic Law, a man died on the word of two or three witnesses
  - How much worse punishment will be in store for the person that:
    1. tramples the Son underfoot
    2. counts the blood of the Covenant of no effect (worthless)
    3. insults the Spirit of grace
  - The Greek word for *'punishment'* is unique and is the only time used in the entire NT [τιμωρία (timōria): vengeance, punishment, penalty]
- :30-31 God judges those who commit the acts above severely because of His character
  - Deu 32:35-36 Vengeance is the sole prerogative of God and God will judge His people
  - The author concludes the warning with a final ominous statement:
    - *'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.'*

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Encouragement (Heb 10:32–39)

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

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Encouragement (Heb 10:32–39)

- :32-34 The writer encourages the people and calls them to remember their former, courageous faith
- 'Recall' (ἀναμιμνῄσκω – *anamimnēskō)* is a Greek word that means to carefully think back and to entirely reconstruct in their minds and then to keep on remembering the reality of the past when they showed boldness
- :33 Two aspects of their sufferings: direct and indirect
  - Direct suffering was what they suffered personally: *'partly while you were made a spectacle'*
    - They suffered reproaches (ridicule and mockery)
    - They suffered afflictions (persecution in relation to their possessions)
  - Indirect suffering - because of their associations with other believers

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

Encouragement (Heb 10:32–39)

- **:35 *'Do not cast away'* - The Greek meaning is stronger…**
  - ***'Do not therefore fling away, as though it had no value, the boldness you once made as your own.'***

- **:36 Endurance - The believers need to know that trials are a part of the life of faith**
  - **They need more patient endurance, not more faith**
- **They will receive rewards in this life (spiritual maturity) and rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ in the next life**

- **:37-38 The sign of a believer is living by faith. The writer quotes Hab 2:3-4.**

- **:39 The writer makes the application to the believers**
  - **Those who shrink back are unbelievers; the believers live by faith**

Hebrews: Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement

SUMMARY

- **'Put on' (ἐνδύω – endyō): to sink into, put on, clothe one's self**
  - **Rom 13:12** ***'The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.'***
  - **Rom 13:14** ***'But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.'***
  - **Gal 3:27** ***'For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***
  - **Eph 4:24** ***'and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.'***
  - **Eph 6:11** ***'Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.'***
  - **Col 3:10** ***'and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,'***
  - **Col 3:12** ***Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;***
- **God gives us free-will…He doesn't force us to not sin, otherwise we would be robots!**
- **He desires us to love and obey Him…not out of duty or obligation, but from a heart filled with gratitude and worship. This is our voluntary sacrifice!**
- **This requires us to *'put on'* (give mental assent to) Christ, His armor and the new mind/spirit He has given us through His voluntary sacrifice on the cross!**