

# Hebrews

## Chapter Ten

### **Hebrews 10:1-4**

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

### **Shadows**

- The “shadow” in this passage is referring to the priesthood and the sacrificial system
- Paul also calls the legal restrictions of the old covenant a “shadow” in Colossians 2:17
- “Let no one therefore judge you in eating, or in drinking, or with respect to a feast day or a new moon or a Sabbath day, which are a shadow of the things to come; but the body is Christ’s.”- **Colossians 2:16-17**

- Paul says the “shadows” are of “the things to come”.
- The Hebrew writer says the shadows are of the “**good** things to come.”
- In 9:11 “Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here.”
- The old covenant could never bring people to a state of perfection or completeness since they had to continue to renew their standing by repeating the sacrifice.

- "For example, you need a load of wood: you go to the wood man, and he takes you to a large oak tree in the far corner of the lot. Pointing to the long shadow it casts, he offers to sell you this shadow. Will you take it? Now, if God says that in the Law there was a *shadow*, not even the very image of the things - and of course, not the things themselves, why will you hold to the shadow?" (Newell)

### The Old Order

- If in the old order a person obtained perfection or if it were complete in and of itself would a person not have stopped the ritual and moved on to what they had achieved?
- Instead they went back and did it again every year
- The word for “purified” in verse two means an inward and complete cleansing.
- It is different than the old order of cleansing in that once a person is cleansed in Jesus he does not have to repeat the process yearly.

- Once a person is cleansed in their conscience they need not and can not repeat it.
- “Once purified” is in the perfect tense which is a past action that is still affecting the present.
- This is the sense of Jesus words to Peter in John 13:10, “*A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean.*”
- In Acts 15:9 Peter tells the Jerusalem council that the Holy Spirit had cleansed their hearts by faith.

### A Yearly Reminder

- The Old Testament rituals were a “**reminder**” of the sins that would need to be dealt with some time in the future.
- The old ritual clearly was not God reflecting to his people that he “would remember their sins no more” since they were reminded of their sins annually, if not daily. The new covenant says he will remember them no more in Jer. 31:31-35.

### Animal Sacrifices

- The animal sacrifices could not take away sins but their blood could only cover their sins
- The Hebrew word for atonement is *kophar*, which literally means “to cover.”
- “The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who **takes away the sin** of the world!” (John 1:29)
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness.”-**1 John 1:9**

### Hebrews 10:5-9

Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:  
 “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You had no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—  
 In the volume of the book it is written  
 of Me— To do Your will, O God.’”  
 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*” (which are offered according to the law),

then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

### **David Appealed To The Character Of God**

- For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.
- David does not sacrifice at the altar but appeals to God for his forgiveness.
- There is not an Old Testament individual who understood the character of God and His grace more than David.

### **Jesus' Death Fulfills God's Will**

- This quotation is from Psalm 40:6-8, and in first century Christianity it was their only Bible.
- It is interesting that the early writers of the N.T. believed the O.T. was prophetic in revealing Jesus' life and ministry, but today most believers do not see the importance of the prophetic scriptures.
- What this scripture tells us is that Jesus fulfilled the will of God by dying on the cross for the sins of the world.
- All of scripture is about Jesus, "the volume of the book is written of me."

### **Hebrews 10:10**

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

### Once And For All

- It is important to note the importance that the “once and for all” statement is to the book of Hebrews.
- His argument is based on this truth that Jesus died “once and for all” as opposed to the sacrifices that must be repeated yearly.
- We have been “once purified” (v. 2)
- He offered “one sacrifice for sins forever” (v.12)
- In one offering He has “perfected forever” those who are being sanctified. (V. 14)

### Hebrews 10:11-14

“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

### The Seven Truths In This Passage

1. Every priest stands ministering daily.
2. They repeatedly offer the same sacrifices which can never take away sins.
3. Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins forever.
4. Jesus sat down at the right hand of God.
5. Jesus is waiting until His enemies are made His footstool during His millennial kingdom.
6. One offering perfected forever the sins of man.
7. Sanctification is an ongoing process.

### The Contrasts Of The Old And With The New

- The priests stood Jesus sat down.
- The priests sacrificed repeatedly Jesus’ sacrificed one time.
- Jesus’ sacrifice takes away sin the priestly system could never take away sins.
- “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”-**Revelation 1:5-6**

### **The Catholic Doctrine**

- By perverting the Christian practice of the Lord's Supper (Mat. 26:26-28; I Cor. 11:23-27), the Catholic Church has created the Mass, which they believe to be a continual sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- "Christ...commanded that his bloody sacrifice on the Cross should be daily renewed by an unbloody sacrifice of his body and blood in the Mass under the simple elements of bread and wine." (The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 10, Pg. 13, Article: "Mass, Sacrifice of")

- Rome teaches that the Mass is a continual "sacrifice" of Jesus Christ, but God's word states that Jesus made the FINAL sacrifice on Calvary! This is made perfectly clear in Hebrews 10:10-12:
- "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Christ's Death Perfects the Sanctified and every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God..."

### **Hebrews 10:15-18**

“But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, “This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”

### **A Reminder**

- The Hebrew writer once again reminds the Hebrew believers of Jeremiah's prophecy for the Jewish believer.
- This was quoted in Hebrews 8:10-12.
- This time however the Holy Spirit bears witness to the believer about the reality of this truth.
- God, Who knows all the sins we make and will make, chooses to forget all of our sins.
- There is no more offering for sin! Sins have been remitted and remembered no more forever!

**Romans 8:14-17**

- “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with **Him**, that we may also be glorified together.”
- When we believe in Jesus we have become sons and daughters with all the rights and privileges that come with being a child of God. We too often see ourselves as hirelings performing a task that if we don’t perform the task perfectly we will be fired. However, we are a child and God is our Father and even though we mess up we are still children and loved by our Abba, Father.

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter 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.*

**Therefore**

- We are introduced to the Hebrew writers next thought with the adverb “therefore”.
- As a result of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for the sins of man
- As a result of Jesus’ sacrifice being a one time event for once and for all sins.
- As a result of Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of the believer.
- The believer can enter the Holy of Holies with confidence

**Three Things The Believe Has On His Side**

1. Boldness to enter the Holy of Holies.
2. A New and living way.
3. A High Priest over the house of God.

### **Boldness To Enter The Holy Of Holies**

- The boldness we have as believers is a **cheerful courage** to enter the place where God dwells.
- This is a diametrically opposed to a **"fearful expectation"** that the Hebrew writer refers to in verse 27.
- If we are in constant fear of losing our salvation our mission becomes focused on keeping or **maintaining our salvation**. If we are secure our focus is focused on **cheerfully serving God and man.**

- "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones." -Isaiah 57:15
- The gaining of Christ is the relationship of love and adoration not the perfection of behaviors; the journey becomes **joyful when we recognize** the winning of Christ is in the relationship, not our performance.

**BISHOP STEPHEN NEILL SAYS: " IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE A JOYFUL PEOPLE THAT THE EARLY CHRISTIANS WERE ABLE TO CONQUER THE WORLD"**



### **A New And Living Way**

- The word that is used for "new" is "prophatos" and literally means "freshly killed".
- The sacrifice of Jesus is always before God.
- The way into the Holy of Holies was only reserved for the priests who had drawn the short straw.
- The living way into the presence of God is now open to sinners who believe in the work of Jesus on the cross as the final sacrifice once and for all for their sin.

### **Jesus Is Our Peace**

- “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

**Ephesians 2:13-18**

### **A High Priest Over The House Of God**

- We can now know for sure that God is on our side because we have a great High Priest over the house of God.
- It is a mind blowing thought that we do not serve God as priests but He serves us as our Priest.
- “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High **Priest** in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

### **Draw Near To God**

- We can draw near to God because the issues that separated man from God have been resolved by the work of Jesus on the cross.
- We are to draw near with a true heart and yet the heart is “deceitful above all things” and nothing good comes out of the heart of man.
- A true heart is a sincere and repentant heart that comes before God wholly depending on the work of Jesus.

### **Full Assurance Of Faith**

- We can have full assurance of faith because the One Who promised is faithful to do what He says He will do.
- It is the **substance of God's word** that produces faith!
- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
- A full assurance of faith rests on the finished work of Jesus.

### Cleansing Of Conscience And Body

- The work of Christ on the cross cleanses our conscience from all the evil it contains.
- The work of Christ on the cross cleanses our body from this evil polluted world.
- We are cleansed in body, soul, and mind through the work of Jesus on the cross. Therefore, we can draw near to God with a cheerful courage in the fullness of faith through His promises.

### Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 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.

### Four Things The Believer Does

- There are four things the believer does in light of the work of Jesus.

1. Hold fast the confession
2. Consider one another
3. Do not forsake coming together
4. Exhort one another

### Hold Fast The Confession

- This is the second time we are encouraged to hold fast the confession.
- Jesus is the source and we are to "...consider the Apostle and High Priest of our **confession**, Christ Jesus". Hebrews 3:1
- "Having then a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold tightly to our confession. (Hebrews 4:14)
- "Let us hold fast the **confession** of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. (Hebrews 10:23)
- The reason we can hold fast is because "...He who promised *is* faithful."

### Consider One Another

- Usually when we consider one another it is to criticize their faults and failures.
- The Hebrew writer asks the believer to consider one another to stir up love and good works.
- Paul in the Philippians chapter 2 uses two words to convey how we are to invest in a person:
- **Know** (v. 19): to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of.
- **Care** (v. 20): Literally to become involved with

### TRUE SERVICE

IT COMES OUT OF A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, AND IS A LIFESTYLE GENERATED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S LOVE.—BREEDS HUMILITY

### FALSE SERVICE

IT COMES OUT OF THE FLESH AND IS LOOKING FOR A REWARD, SO THAT IT CAN BOAST AND EXALT ITSELF.—BREEDS PRIDE

### Do Not Forsake Coming Together

- There are good number of people who go to church when they feel like or they need it at the time.
- A lot of people are just simply indifferent to whether or not they go to church or not.
- "Many go to church if they feel they "need it" at the time. But our motivation for fellowship must be to obey God and *to give to others*. We can go to church looking to encourage someone who needs to hang in there against a tide of discouragement."—Constable

### Exhort

- Exhorting a person is to encourage them to keep on the Christian journey.
- "Christian exhortation means the expression of our hearts to others to urge them to continue on the Christian path. It may include testimony, and often will necessitate warning." (Newell)
- Exhortation is in light of the coming of the Lord.
- So many today don't even care about the return of the Lord.

### **Scoffers**

Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?-- 2 Peter 3:1-4

### **What Is A Scoffer?**

- "One who has an expression of scorn or contempt; to ridicule" Webster's Dictionary
- "No one can know the dates and hour so why try"
- "It will happen when it happens"
- Lack of Biblical understanding about prophecy produces skepticism
- "It's a waste of time trying to figure it out, so why try"
- Viewing Scripture as not inspired by God

### **Titus 2:11-15**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

### **Hebrews 10:26-29**

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony* of two or three witnesses. 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?"

### The Cause of Sin

- The reason we sin is because of who we are
- We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because it is part of our nature to sin.
- “Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; and so death passed to all men, because all sinned.”-**Romans 5:12**
- Those who have not come to Jesus sin and love it justifying themselves by their good behavior
- Those who have come to Jesus hate sin and although there may be a lapse into sin the believer does not justify it but despises sin.

- The seat of sin is in the will of man and our physical body is the instrument for behaviors through the power of sin.
- There are environmental conditions that will arouse our nature which can cause habits.
- There is a certain genetic make up towards certain sins that are passed down through family genetics, i.e. alcoholism, drug addictions, workaholic, anger, passivity, and slothfulness.
- There are community sins that affect us by how we see the world, i.e. racism, religion, and ethnocentricity.

- “Let no man say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God can’t be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin; and the sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”-**James 1:13-15**
- “But if you show partiality, you commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”-**James 2:9-10**

- “To him therefore who knows to do good, and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”-**James 4:17**
- The clearest definition of sin in the bible is in Romans 14:23, “whatever is not of faith is sin”.
- Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?-**Proverbs 20:9**
- Jesus dealt with our sinful nature upon the cross thus condemning sin in the world.
- “The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!””-**John 1:29**
- “You, being in past times alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and blameless before him, if it is so that you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the Good News which you heard, which is being proclaimed in all creation under heaven; of which I, Paul, was made a servant.”-**Colossians 1:21-23**

### Willful sin

- David prayed in Psalm 19, "Who can discern his errors? Forgive me from hidden errors. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me. Then I will be upright. I will be blameless and innocent of great transgression." -**Psalm 19:12-13**
- The writer to Hebrews is writing to believers in Jesus so when he warns them of willful sin he is not referring to being over come by temptation and falling into a willful act of which there is forgiveness.
- Man is born with a bent for sinning because of our nature to sin. So of course there are going to be acts of willful sin that we need to repent.

### Repentance

- Repentance in the bible comes from the Greek word "metanoia" which literally means "a change of mind."
- In a perfect world a change of mind would lead to a change in behavior but we don't live in a perfect world our behavior doesn't change because we have a change of mind.
- When we repent and come to Jesus there is now a war going on in because of our sinful nature.

### Psalm 119:35-36

**Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness.**

**The Psalmist understands that if he is going to live his life by God's Word there is going to be a battle within his soul to keep the commandments of God.**



### **“Make me walk....”**

- We don't have to ask God to make us do something we love to do
- We do not have to make a child eat candy! But it can be a battle to try to make him eat spinach or parsnips
- We might have to make a child do his chores, but we won't have to force him to run and fetch our wallet when we get ready to pay him to do something he loves to do.
- So why must we be made to walk in the path that we delight in?

### **The Two Natures Of The Believer**

- There is "the old man" and there is "the new man."
- "But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."

- I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." Romans 7:17-23
- The new man loves the path of God's commandments; the old man doesn't so the fight is on.
- "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, that you may not do the things that you desire."-**Galatians 5:17**

### **Knowledge Of The Truth**

- The Hebrew believers were being warned by the Hebrew writer not to change their minds about the truth of Jesus and ignore his work on the cross.
- The writer joins himself in the warning when he says, "If we sin willfully..."
- The key of this passage is the phrase "knowledge of the truth".
- If any of us deliberately and defiantly reject the work of Jesus on cross after having a knowledge of the truth there is no more a sacrifice for sin but only a fearful expectation of judgment.

### Defiant Sin

- “But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, **blasphemes the Lord** and must be cut off from the people of Israel. **Because they have despised the Lord's word** and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them.”-Numbers 15:30-31
- These Jewish believers would have known about this Scripture.
- To sin defiantly against the blood of Jesus and the Spirit of grace is just as offensive to God.

### Insulting The Spirit of Grace

- “Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in that which is to come.”- **Matthew 12:31-32**
- The only sin that will keep man out of heaven is not receiving forgiveness of sin against the Holy Spirit.
- To resist the Holy Spirit is a sin of the deepest offense against God because it denies His mercy and grace by rejecting the work of Jesus on the cross.

### The Office Of The Spirit

- “When he has come, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment; about sin, because they don't believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to my Father, and you won't see me any more; about judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged. “I have yet many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. However when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak from himself; but whatever he hears, he will speak. He will declare to you things that are coming. He will glorify me, for he will take from what is mine, and will declare it to you.”-**John 16:8-14**

- The Holy Spirit **convicts** the world of the sin.
- There are people who willfully and deliberately resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit to believe in Jesus. This is the line drawn by God that is crystal clear. If man rejects the Spirit there is no forgiveness.
- The Holy Spirit **convicts about righteousness** in the ascended Savior. We are made righteous because of Jesus' atoning work and ascension to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God interceding for our righteousness.
- The Holy Spirit **convicts about judgment** and there is no hope for those who follow the prince of this world but only fearful expectation of judgment.

- The Holy Spirit will guide in all truth.
- The Holy Spirit speaks the truth about Jesus Who is the very essence of Truth.
- It is not a sin of ignorance. It is a willful sin. It involves the will of the person committing it. It is a persistent continual rejection of what the Holy Spirit is telling man about the work of Jesus on the cross.
- There is no evidence that these Hebrew believers had committed sin against the Holy Spirit.
- The writer says, “If we sin willfully after having a knowledge of the truth...”
- There is no indication that it is even possible to willfully reject Jesus after having received a knowledge of the truth.
- The Hebrew writer is simply warning these believers against doing it.

### **“How Shall We Escape?”**

- The Hebrew writer had already warned these Hebrew believers about neglecting so great a salvation
- The answer is we will not escape if we ignore God's plan for humanity
- The word for "neglect" implies to have opportunity but to disregard or ignore the opportunity.
- The Hebrew letter was written to believers therefore it is not the issue of rejecting the message of salvation but neglecting the message of salvation
- There is a real danger when believers become indifferent and uninterested in such a "great salvation" that is in Jesus by Grace through faith

### **Hebrews 10:30-31**

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 the living God.

### **Judgment Of God**

- There are three reasons that judgment comes upon people:
  1. Trampled the Son of God underfoot.
  2. Treat the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing.
  3. Insult the Spirit of grace.
- Despite what man may believe God will come and judge those who have resisted His gospel, rejected His love, ignored His plan of salvation, and despised the Spirit.

## **2 Thessalonians 1:5-8**

- [The patient endurance of the believer] "...which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **The Day Of The Lord**

"Wail, for **the day of the LORD** is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. Behold, **the day of the LORD** comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine."-- Isaiah 13:6-10

## **The Believer And The Wrath Of God**

"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one**--1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.""- John 3:17-8
- "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**"-John 3:36

### **Hebrews 10:32-34**

"But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 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."

### **Recall The Former Days**

- The Hebrew writer is encouraging these Hebrew believers to remind themselves how much they have endured.
- They had been made a public spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations at the hands of others.
- They were companions of people treated with reproach and tribulations.
- They had compassion on the Hebrew writer himself who had been imprisoned.
- They joyfully accepted the plundering of their goods.
- All because they knew they had a better hope and enduring possessions waiting for them in heaven.

### **Patient Endurance**

- During times of perceived troubles there is renewed confidence in Jesus the hope and anchor of our soul.-Hebrews 6:19
- Faith in moment-by-moment life situations that we find ourselves. Trusting in the Lord that He is working all things out according to His designed plan both in our lives and the world order, as we "wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." -1 Thessalonians 1:10

### Enlightened Through Examination

- Before God can enlighten our eyes we must agree that we don't see everything clearly.
- We need to step back and through examining our lives listen to our life and look for God in the midst of it.
- The path of enlightenment in life's troubles and sorrows is to recall to memory how God enlightened you through the struggles.

### Hebrews 10:35-36

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

### Loss Of Confidence

- There is nothing more paralyzing than a loss of confidence in our lives.
- These Hebrew believers were in danger of throwing away their confidence.
- The word for "cast away" is in subjunctive mood which means they have the potential to cast away their confidence but they have not done it yet.
- Over and over in the book of Hebrews this is the encouragement the writer emphasizes is to not look back but press on to better things ahead.

### Causes Of Loss Of Confidence

- Depression, troubles of the mind, melancholy.
- An acute sense of our sinful condition bringing guilt and shame.
- Life itself with all its troubles and trials.
- Bad understanding of theology that focuses on self improvement rather than the work of Christ.
- The fact that we are wearing out and faced with our own mortality.
- Laying up treasures on earth that steals our joy.

**Crisis Moments In Life Produce Moments****For Faith In The Lord**

- I would have lost heart, **unless I had believed** that I would see the goodness of the LORD." -Psalm 27:13
- A personal relationship with the Lord builds confidence to face life.
- Those who trust in the Lord with all their heart have confidence to face the trials of life.
- A personal relationship with the Lord results in our fears fading in light of who He is.
- When problems in life abound we don't need to have more faith we need to seek God for who He is.

**It is not that the believer needs more faith. It is the object of our faith, Jesus, that is the most important--Roman Centurion Matthew. 8:5-10**

**Faith Is A Gift From God**

- "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." - Romans 12:3