

Hebrews 10:19-25 Answers Let Us Hold Fast

Review: This letter was written to Hebrew Christians who were being pressured to revert back to Judaism. The author wrote to remind them of the importance of who Christ is and what He accomplished on the cross.

Synthesis: Hebrews 1- 10a is mostly argument and information. Now, beginning in Hebrews 10:19, the author stated the application of all the information. Virtually the rest of the book is application and exhortation. *Fasten your seat belts!*

******In 10:19, you will see the words “therefore” and “since”. These words often flag that an application is coming. According to 10:19-25, how were the Hebrews supposed to apply the information given in 7:1–10:18?** In light of the reality of the previous information, they were to draw near to God in full assurance of faith (10:22), to hold fast to their confession of hope without wavering (10:23) and to think of ways to encourage each other (10:24). Notice that the words “let us” (ESV) are found three times in this paragraph.

- 1. Jesus shed His blood for us. What impact should that have on us, according to 10:19?** Because Jesus shed His blood, we ought to have confidence to enter heavenly holy places. Before, only the high priest could enter, and only once a year. Thanks to Christ, any of God’s people can enter and at any time.

To what “curtain” does 10:20 refer? It refers to the curtain that hung in the Jewish temple, separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. There is no longer anything separating us from God.

ESV Mark 15:37-38 Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

According to 10:20, Jesus opened up a new and living way for us through the curtain. What was the old and dead way? The old and dead way was via the Levitical sacrificial system.

- 2. What did the author mean when he wrote that Jesus opened the way for us “through his flesh” (10:20)?** The phrase “through his flesh” (10:20) is parallel to the phrase “by the blood of Jesus” (10:19). Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself on the cross was acceptable to God the Father as the perfect and permanent payment for sins, thus opening the curtain.

ESV John 14:6 I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

What truth were the readers reminded of in 10:21? We have a great high priest (Jesus) over the heavenly house of God. This is an oft repeated truth: 1:17, 3:1, 4:14, 5:5, 5:10, 6:20, 7:26, 8:1 and 9:11

The word “since” is found twice in 10:19-21. (Let’s try to make some sense out of the since!) What does the word “since” mean as it is used here (10:19-21)? What is a synonym? It means “because”.

What truth goes with the first “sense” (10:19)? We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus

What truth goes with the second “sense” (10:21)? We have a great high priest over the house of God.

3. **According to 10:22, “since” these things are true, what should we do?** “Therefore”, we should draw near to God in full assurance.

Contrast: Before, under the old covenant, if anyone other than the high priest attempt to draw near to God in the temple he would have been struck dead.

ESV **Hebrews 4:16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

What does it mean to have a true heart (10:22)? Perhaps it carries the idea of sincerity.

4. **What is it that makes our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience (10:22)?** See 9:14. It has to go back to one of the two “since” statements.

ESV **Hebrews 9:14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

In sense are our bodies washed with pure water (10:22)? This may a reference to the ceremonial washings that were such a big part of Judaism. If so, it is a figurative way to refer to being made pure and cleansed from sin. More likely it is a reference to Christian baptism, which symbolizes having a clean conscience and being washed from sins.

Review: What is the main verb in 10:22? The main verb is “draw near”.

5. **What application does 10:23 contain?** We are to hold fast to our confession.

What does it mean to hold “fast” to something (10:23)? A fastener fastens something down. Thus to hold fast mean to stick to something firmly.

What is the confession of our hope (10:23)? See 3:1, 4:14. Jesus is said to be the apostle and high priest of our confession, who passed through the heavens.

ESV **Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession . . .

ESV **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

How would you define hope (10:23)? Biblical hope is a confident expectation about the future. Because of what Jesus did for us, we have a confident expectation of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Hope that is seen is not hope. You can't see Jesus in heaven, sitting at the right hand of the Father. Yet, we know these are present realities.

What was tempting the Hebrews to waver in their confession (10:23)? They were being pressured to leave Jesus and return to apostate Judaism.

What example of people who wavered has the author already given in this letter (10:23)? He gave the example of the Israelites who, after leaving Egypt, wavered in unbelief and turned back from the Promised Land (3:7-4:13).

6. **In 10:23, What reason did the author give for not wavering from the hope we profess?** See 2:17, 3:1-2, 3:6. Our reason for not wavering is because he who promised is faithful.

ESV **Hebrews 2:17** (Jesus is a) faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

ESV **Hebrews 3:1-2** . . . consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him . . .

ESV **Hebrews 3:6** . . . Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house . . .

What famous church attendance appeal are we given in 10:24-25?

What does it mean to "consider" (10:24) something? It is from *katanoeo* (2657) and means look at, observe or contemplate (BAGD, p. 415). Our English word "consider" means to think carefully about, to give thought to.

What is it that we are supposed to consider (10:24)? We are to consider how we might encourage the other people at church to love and good works.

What do you think of what you think of stirring up something (10:24)? It means to agitate, foment, provoke, stimulate. Negatively, one is said to stir up trouble. We are to stir up one another to love and good deeds.

7. **Who is supposed to do all this considering and stirring up (10:24)?** We are each to encourage "one another". It is everyone's job.

Based on 10:25, where is all this stirring up one another to take place? It is to take place when we, as God's people, meet together.

Application: When we assemble as a church, it is to be characterized as a meeting where there is ample opportunity for each of us to encourage one another. This is to be true of both the worship time and the Lord's Supper as a holy meal. It is not to be focused on only one person. It is about each person doing his part. To come unprepared to the 1 Corinthians 14 meeting is like coming to be in a wedding wearing street clothes when you were asked to wear a tuxedo (Mt 22:10-14). Rather than a lot from one person, the goal of participatory meetings is a little from a lot of people. Yet everything said must be carefully offered to the church with the goal of edifying the others present.

Ecclesiology: It is obvious that the activities of 10:24 (encouraging one another) were to happen when the church met together (10:25). Nowhere in the New Testament is a church meeting called a "worship service", nor was the Lord's Supper originally a ritualistic token meal. From this passage it is obvious that a major purpose of church meeting is mutual encouragement.

Do you consider this every week (10:24)? Perhaps each Saturday evening it would be good to take a few minutes and consider how you might accomplish this the next day in the church meeting, especially in the context of participatory worship (1Co 14) and the Lord's Supper as a fellowship meal (1Co 11). Don't fly by the seat of your pants.

String Example: If a string were stretched across a stream at water level, various things would become attached to it as the day passed, things that otherwise would have floated on past. Similarly, thinking all week long about what to bring to the meeting helps greatly. If no one brought food for the agape love feast, there would not be much of a feast. If no one comes to the meeting prepared to contribute, there will not be much of a meeting! We need to prepare ahead of time to contribute something to the meeting.

Is there a testimony of something that happened in your life that the Lord would have you to bring?

Could you not purpose to begin a time of conversational prayer?

Is there a song that would edify the church?

Is there some subject or passage of Scripture to teach on?

Could you lead in a time of public Scripture reading?

What has the Lord shown you this week in your time with Him?

8. Men, do your wives spend more time preparing for the weekly meeting (in cooking food for the fellowship meal) than you do (in considering how to stir up the brethren, 10:24-25)?

Why do you think they had neglected to meet together (10:25)? It was probably due to persecution.

9. **What approaching “Day” (10:25) did the author have in mind?** See 9:27-28, 10:37, *Matthew 24*. This could be a reference to the second appearing of Christ (mentioned in 9:27-28). On the other hand, Jesus’ *Matthew 24* prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem before Jesus’ generation passed away was probably well known to the Hebrews and Jesus gave many signs to alert them of the approach of that Day.

The Bible never uses the words “second coming”. Instead, it says “second appearing”. Jesus came in judgment in A.D. 70, but he did not then appear. The second appearing of Jesus is a yet future event. Notice how in **10:37** the coming of Jesus was predicted to be “in a little while”. *By what stretch of the imagination could 2,000 years be construed to be a little while?* The author further said that Jesus would “not delay” (**10:37**). *How can 2000 years be anything other than a delay?* Most probably, the Day (10:25) that author had in mind was the Day of Jesus’ judgment coming against apostate Judaism in A.D. 70.

So What?

Review: How does this paragraph logically follow the others? This clearly is an application paragraph, the “so what” of the “what” presented in 10:1-18.

How many times are the words “let us” found in this paragraph (10:19-25)? It is found three times in the ESV (10:22, 23, 24). The NIV has it four times. This is a hard-core application paragraph!

10. **What is the main point of this paragraph (10:19-25)?** Because of what Jesus did, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance, 10:22.

11. **What will you purpose to do differently as a result of reading this paragraph (10:19-25)?**

**** = ask this question before reading the text aloud. This is put people’s minds in gear and them something to look for as the text is read. It causes focus.

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