

Pentwater Bible Church

Hebrews Message 29

July 29, 2018



Abraham's Journey from UR to Canaan by Jozsef Molnar Cir. 1850

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The Book of Hebrews

Message Twenty-Nine

FAITH INTRODUCTION

July 29, 2018

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FAITH

Hebrews 10:19–25

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, 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 profession of our hope without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) ²⁴ and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (KJV).

JESUS MADE THE WAY FOR US TO SALVATION.

Hebrews 10:19–20

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh (KJV).

The first section of this book was theological and developed the superiority of Christ by His eternal priesthood over the Mosaic Law and Rabbinic Judaism. This section of the Book to the Hebrews moves beyond the facts of Christ's superiority and begins an application section beginning with the topic of faith. The writer is working here in the text to appeal to the Jewish people in the first century church to not to go back into rabbinic Judaism and the Temple legalistic practices, but to place their faith in the work of Jesus of Nazareth.

Because of our Lord's death on the cross on our behalf, we can enter in to the most holy place because of the blood of Jesus. In other words, we have free access to God. This is not the earthly Holy of Holies in the Temple or Tabernacle, but the heavenly one. In a very unique manner believers are blessed with being in the same situation that Melchizedek, the Old Testament High Priest was. New Testament believers in the death and resurrection of Jesus have more than just access they also have *boldness*. Additionally, this access provides us with the freedom to verbally express the innermost thoughts of our hearts to God by means of Messiah's blood. The Greek work for *new* used here is unique to the entire New Testament and it means "to be freshly slain" or "freshly slaughtered." It is referring to the way it

distinguishes, as a spiritual method of approaching God, from the old Mosaic Law. Jesus by and through His blood provided us access to God without any other intermediary such as the old covenant High Priest. Jesus is God and therefore eternal, but, by the death of Jesus' humanity (His flesh), He provided us access to God as signified by the tearing of the veil of the Temple from top to bottom at the point of His death. Mark and Matthew recorded the event. Along with the veil being torn other miracles were manifested to attest to His divinity such as and earthquake, rocks breaking, and previously dead Old Testament Saint coming alive and showing themselves in Jerusalem to many of the population there. It was clear to the Romans and others there that this was indeed the Son of God. As Jesus had previously said which John recorded. He is the Way, The Truth and The Life, no one gets to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

Matthew 27:50-54

⁵⁰Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. ⁵¹And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; ⁵²And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, ⁵³And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly, this was the Son of God (KJV).

DRAWING NEAR IN FAITH

Hebrews 10:21–22

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 (KJV).

Because of what Jesus has done for us we can go right into the presence of God. Therefore, the Lord begins to provide the directions He wants us to follow to work out that knowledge in faith. Jesus is the High Priest over all the House of God. He is not just over an earthly house but over the better heavenly one of which its characteristics have been described in early chapters. The sovereign power of this God High Priest is the basis for certifying our faith in Him and His requests for us (New Testament, Christ's Law). This begins with four exhortations.

1. We can draw near with true hearts. God requires us to have as a main qualification a genuine inner truth for Him. Not halfhearted or casually approaching Him as some would. But to have a manner and attitude of pure undivided worship in communion with the Creator.
2. We can draw near through fully placing our trust in Him. We can go to God boldly, free from guilt because of the work of Jesus on the cross. We can approach Him without any doubt that He will hear us and answer us.

3. Our evil consciences are sprinkled with Christ's blood for cleanliness. Because of this event of Christ sacrifice we are justified. We are declared righteous and, therefore, we are free from guilt. It is the Greek perfect (completed or finished) tense. This means it happened in the past, when we first believed, and continues into the present.
4. Our bodies washed with pure water. This is a reference to practical sanctification or becoming more Christ like throughout our lives. The Greek word used here for washed means "to bathe." This refers to the spiritual cleansing we received as a result of having been regenerated, (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:26) referred to by Jesus as being born again (John 3:3). It is a perfect tense (completed for finished). The readers have been bathed and are still being bathed. Jesus is still washing them since sanctification continues throughout our entire lives. This instruction is just very practical, everyday continual sanctification.

STEADY FAITH IS REQUIRED

Hebrews 10:23

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our hope without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised (KJV)).

We can have full confidence in the reliability of our Scriptures and its claim to be God's Word as well as the eyewitness accounts when the eyewitnesses recorded the miracles, testimony as well as the death and resurrection of Jesus. We must rely on the grace of God assuring us of our faith in truth through the eyewitnesses for the hope we retain that God will do all He says He will do. Here the apostle says to hold fast the profession of our faith, and to always embrace the truth of the Gospel. He wants us to lay a firm hold on them, and to keep that hold against all temptation and satanic and worldly opposition. Our spiritual enemies will always do what they can to cripple our faith, hope, holiness, and comfort. This belief in Jesus' death and resurrection is the world's best treasure. We have to practice it without wavering, without doubting, without disputing, without yielding to temptation to lead us into sin. Having once settled these great things from God into our souls through the Holy Spirit, we must be steadfast and immovable. Those who begin to waver in matters of Christian faith and practice are in danger of falling away (apostasy) because they never fully believed and the Devil can move them into apostasy.

Apostasy can be defined as the departure from the truth that one *professed* to have. It does not mean that they ever really possessed the truth. Apostates do not actually possess the truth. Rather, it is a departure from a truth they *professed* to have because of an affiliation with a particular visible church or seminary.

The New Testament clearly discusses in several NT passages that there would be an apostasy in the latter days. The latter days or Laodicean age is surely upon us.

The first is found in 2nd Thessalonians.

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

¹Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction (KJV),

The second passage is from I Timothy

I Timothy 4:1–3

¹Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth (KJV).

The source of the apostasy is demons, for apostates have essentially given in to seducing spirits and are preaching a system of doctrine, which is a doctrine of demons. Furthermore, they speak lies through hypocrisy, and their consciences have stopped working.

The Third passage is found in II Timothy.

II Timothy 3:5

¹This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these (KJV).

In verses 1-4 there is a description of the general character of the world in the last days, and it is clear that these characteristics are true in this present day. Verse five centers on the general religious front, where the last days will be characterized by men having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Apostate ministers, who wear decorative clerical garb or cater to the people instead of God have a form of godliness. But they deny the power thereof, for they have denied the true *power* of godliness. They claim to trust in God but are actually trusting in worldly methodologies. Finally, the apostle Peter writes of the characteristics of the apostates and warns us to avoid them.

II Peter 2:1–22

¹But there arose false prophets also among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying

even the Master that bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. ²And many shall follow their lascivious doings; by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of. ³And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose sentence now from of old lingereth not, and their destruction slumbereth not. ⁴For if God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; ⁵and spared not the ancient world, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, having made them an example unto those that should live ungodly; ⁷and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked ⁸(for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds): ⁹the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment; ¹⁰but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of defilement, and despise dominion. Daring, self-willed, they tremble not to rail at dignities: ¹¹whereas angels, though greater in might and power, bring not a railing judgment against them before the Lord. ¹²But these, as creatures without reason, born mere animals to be taken and destroyed, railing in matters whereof they are ignorant, shall in their destroying surely be destroyed, ¹³suffering wrong as the hire of wrong-doing; men that count it pleasure to revel in the day-time, spots and blemishes, revelling in their deceivings while they feast with you; ¹⁴having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; enticing unstedfast souls; having a heart exercised in covetousness; children of cursing; ¹⁵forsaking the right way, they went astray, having followed the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the hire of wrong-doing; ¹⁶but he was rebuked for his own transgression: a dumb ass spake with man's voice and stayed the madness of the prophet. ¹⁷These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm; for whom the blackness of darkness hath been reserved. ¹⁸For, uttering great swelling words of vanity, they entice in the lusts of the flesh, by lasciviousness, those who are just escaping from them that live in error; ¹⁹promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage. ²⁰For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. ²¹For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. ²²It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, THE DOG TURNING TO HIS OWN VOMIT AGAIN, AND THE SOW THAT HAD WASHED TO WALLOWING IN THE MIRE (ASV, 1901)"

Reading through this passage, Peter displays no love or tolerance toward the apostates. The Bible and particularly the Lord Jesus do not display any toleration toward apostasy and both castigate it very severely, as these verses clearly show. Peter also tells us what the *mark of an apostate* is. What they teach are called destructive denials. The teachings of the apostates are indeed *destructive heresies*. The content entails *denying even the Master that bought them*. In

other words, the content of apostate teaching involves the denial of the Person (*the Master*) and work (*bought them*) of the Lord Jesus. The Bible tells us to separate out from them in no uncertain terms.

We must separate from them because the Lord has commanded it.

1. Separation is not an optional part of Christianity; it is a commandment (Romans 16:17-18; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 3:5; Titus 3:10; 2 John 7-11; Revelation 18:4).
2. Separation is not mean or unloving; it is obedience to God.
 - a. "Mark them . . . avoid them" (Romans 16:17)
 - b. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - c. "Have no fellowship with" (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - d. "Come out from among" (2 Corinthians 6:17)
 - e. "Withdraw thyself" (1 Timothy 6:5)
 - f. "Shun" (2 Timothy 2:16)
 - g. "Purge oneself from" (2 Timothy 2:21)
 - h. "From such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:5)
 - i. "Reject" (Titus 3:10)
 - j. "Receive them not into your house neither bid them Godspeed" (2 John. 10)
3. We are to separate even from brethren who are walking in disobedience (2 Thessalonians 3:6).
4. Separation is a wall of protection against spiritual danger. Failure to separate from error leaves one open to the influence of error (1 Corinthians 15:33). The reason a shepherd separates the sheep from wolves is to protect them. Likewise, a faithful and godly Bible teacher will seek to separate his flock from spiritual dangers that are even more destructive than wolves. The Doctor of souls will do all he can to keep heresies out of the church. They are to the Church of Jesus Christ what disease is to a Medical Doctor that cares for human bodies in time and space. Both legitimate Doctors will do all they can to prevent or stop heresies/diseases in their respective bodies. Unfortunately, there are more quacks in the spiritual realm than in the physical temporal one. This is because the prize for pure spiritual truth is eternal life. It is the greatest prize on earth to receive. Nothing has greater value. As evidence of this we see many false prophets, corrupt denominations and seminary teachings. As a result, few find eternal salvation. Then Satan has accomplished one of his goals; the eternal destruction of human souls.

The origin or reason enforcing this duty of exercising our faith is: *He is faithful that hath promised*. God has made great and precious promises to believers, and he is a faithful God, true to his word; there is no falseness or wavering with Him, and there should be none with us. His faithfulness should excite and encourage us to be faithful, and we must depend more upon his promises to us than upon our promises to him. So take the grace He has promised because His grace is sufficient.

CORRECTING AND ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

Hebrews 10:24–25

²⁴ and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (KJV).

BELIEVERS ARE TO CORRECT AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN SEVERAL AREAS.

1. We are to love each other as precious saints of God. We should stimulate each other regardless of our feelings toward each other for love is a decision to do what is correct toward brothers and sisters in the Church. Love is not emoting.
2. We are to do good deeds for each other. Our works should be done for the other believers that are in our immediate fellowship first and in the teaching of “our neighbor” last.
3. We are to regularly meet together in fellowship. Some Christians think they can go it alone and not fellowship with others. To withdraw from the strength, we find in the gathering with other saints is to invite disaster. It is akin to a soldier leaving his platoon and thinking he can go it alone. He just becomes an easy target from the enemy. Don’t let the enemy Satan have any opportunity to take advantage of you to comprise your faith.
4. We must encourage, correct, and warn each other of the dangers of the world. The apostle shows that love is the greatest because it reaches out to others. Love is communal. For man, love extends to God and one’s neighbor. Moreover, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Not only in this epistle but also all the members of the church have the communal task of encouraging one another daily. Together we bear the responsibility, for we are the body of Christ.

As Christians we must look to the future, that is, to the day when Jesus returns. The closer we come to that day, the more active we should be in spurring one another on in showing love and doing deeds acceptable to God.

Next message: LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH

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