

INCENTIVES FOR PERSEVERANCE

(Part One)

TEXT: Hebrews 10:19-26, 36-39

INTRODUCTION: The Bible teaches that the faith of a true believer is never static. It is not a momentary act, but active, dynamic, and ongoing. *“The just shall live by his faith”* is an Old Testament text (Hab. 2:4) quoted no less than three times in the New Testament. Faith always manifests itself in obedience. In other words, it **perseveres**. *“Faith without works is dead”* (James 2:20, 26).

The Book of Hebrews was written to primarily Jewish Christians who were experiencing powerful temptations to renounce their faith in Jesus Christ. They were undergoing intense persecution, and were about to experience an even greater trial with the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The writer of this great doctrinal epistle issues repeated warnings against apostasy and calls his readers to perseverance. He gives some powerful incentives that are still valid for us today. We need to hear once again this “sermon in a letter.”

OUTLINE: What six truths from the epistle to the Hebrews do we need to consider if we would persevere and “finish strong”?

I. The Sinless Life of Christ

(2:17,18; 4:14-16)

A. His Incarnation

B. His Impeccability (John 14:30)

C. His Identification with us (Acts 9:4)

1. Our ‘infirmities’

2. Our sins

II. The Present Mediation of Christ

(7:24,25)

A. Praying that we will be **kept** (Jn. 17:11)

B. Praying that our **faith** will not **fail** (Lk. 22:32)

III. The Sufficient Atonement of Christ

(10:14, 16-22)

A. Produces **assurance** (v. 22)

B. Produces **steadfastness** (v. 23)

1. Faith which implies obedience and righteousness

2. Righteousness which produces peace and assurance (Isa. 32:17)

IV. A View of Heavenly Rewards

(10:34-37)

- A. Minimizes temporal **loss** (v. 34)
- B. Produces **patience** (v. 36)
- C. Focuses on the **Second Coming** of Christ (v. 37).

V. The Successful Race of Other Christians

(12:1)

- A. Because their **agony** was not in vain (Gk. for “race”)
- B. Because their **circumstances** were not different from ours (chap. 11)
- C. Because their **perfection** is tied to ours (11:40)

VI. A View of God’s Purpose in Chastening

(12:3-8)

- A. Cause for **consolation** (v. 6)
- B. Reassured by His **restraint** (v. 11, 1 Cor. 10:13)
- C. Results in **meekness** (Job 34:31)

CONCLUSION: Our great need is to “*consider*” Christ in all that He endured for us. This will produce endurance in us (12:3). We see shocking declension and failure on every hand today, but we need not become another casualty. “*We are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*” Let us ever look to Jesus, “*the author and the finisher of our faith*” (12:2). The Christian “Hall of Fame” – those who finished their course without bringing reproach upon the name of Christ – has not been finally written. **We** can be numbered among those who endure unto the end.