

INCENTIVES FOR PERSEVERANCE

(Part Four)

TEXT: Hebrews 10:23, 32-37

INTRODUCTION: The very nature of saving faith proves that God's children **persevere**. True believers always "continue" (John 8:31). True branches "*abide in the vine*" (John 15:2, 4). It is an observation of fact as well as a spiritual principle that "*the just shall live by [his] faith*" (10:38 quoting Hab. 2:4). The divine seed implanted in every regenerate soul assures this.

But God uses **means** to make our faith last. We are "*kept by the power of God through faith*" (1 Pet. 1:5). The letter to the Hebrews is full of incentives for bolstering the faith of Jewish believers who were being sorely tempted to abandon that faith. "*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward*" (v. 35). The past work of Christ in atoning for our sin, His present work of mediation for us, and His future return to reward us should produce **patience** that endures to the end.

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)

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

(10:12-23)

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

1. Through the witness of the **Holy Spirit** (v. 15)

2. Through the witness of the **blood** ("*hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience*")

3. Through the witness of the **water** ("*and our bodies washed with pure water*")

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: Yes, “it will be worth it all when we see Jesus” – all the trials, persecutions, cruel reproaches, and inner wrestlings that are part and parcel of the Christian life. We must see our present existence from God’s eternal perspective. Our affliction on earth for Christ’s sake is “light” and momentary. Our heavenly rewards are weighty and eternal. We already have **faith** (v. 23). All we need now is **patience**. How soon it will be that Jesus will come to reward us! Nothing we’ve done or suffered for Christ will we regret then. By our perseverance therefore let us prove that we have the true faith of God’s elect!