

Heb. 10:35-39 (LD 49) “Doing the Will of God”

For the Children: Imagine if your dad told you to do your homework. You then asked for His help, because you were having trouble doing the work. But the minute he sat down to help you, you got up to go watch some TV. No doubt your dad would conclude that you were not really interested either in obeying his will or receiving his help. When we pray “Thy will be done,” we are asking God to help us obey Him. He will give us that help. But we also need to show that we really do want His help, because we really do want to obey His will. **Questions:** Why do you want to obey God’s will? Why do you want to help others to obey God’s will? Why do you need His help to obey and to tell others about the Lord Jesus?

Introduction:

First Point: The Shrinking Hebrews

- 1) Throwing Away Confidence: The “Hebrew” Christians had “formerly” (v. 32) been under severe persecution. However, they had not been ashamed to be known as Christians. Ironically, now that the persecution was less, they were in greater danger of “shrinking back” or “throwing away your confidence.” This refers to their *boldness* in openly proclaiming Christ. It is not unusual for the church to be bolder when persecuted, but to become softer, quieter and more easy-going when the pressure eases off
- 2) A Serious Loss: This is a serious loss, because Christ promises to confess before His Father those who have confessed Him before men (Lk. 12:8). This is a great “reward.” The flip-side is that He will deny those who have denied Him. Those who “receive what was promised” are those who persevere in obeying God’s will – including His command to confess His Son

Second Point: The Non-Shrinking Christ

- 1) The Righteous One: Vss. 37-38 apply Hab. 2:3-4, to the effect that Christ, the Righteous One, always lived a life of faith. He always trusted and obeyed His father – even in the extremity of the cross. Had He failed to do so – had he shrunk back - He would not have been well-pleasing to His Father and our salvation would not have been accomplished. It is His faith and boldness that enables us to receive what was promised when we live by faith and confess His name boldly
- 2) The Coming One: Christ also obeys His Father’s will by coming (both times) at the time He has appointed – without any delaying. His return will be “in a very little while” from God’s point of view. And in a very short while we will face Him in heaven. This leaves little time for confessing Him; and little time before we must give an account of our obedience to His will. This is no time for shrinking back!

Third Point: The Non-Shrinking Christian

- 1) A Subtle Application: Hab. 2 spoke of the contrast between the proud Chaldeans who mocked God’s promise of restoration, and God’s people who lived by faith. Heb. 10:37-38 applies this to Christ’s living by faith and acceptance of God’s agenda. But the term “righteous one” could also refer to the believer in Christ
- 2) Christians Don’t Shrink Back: Because we are in Christ, we share His character of not shrinking back. V. 39 therefore speaks of the “Hebrews” as those who have faith unto the preserving of the soul. Warnings, commands and promises are the means the Lord uses to work His preserving grace in us. So is the prayer that His will be done. He answers that prayer by helping us to do His will, rather than shrinking back. He also answers it by applying His Son’s work to the forgiveness of our sins when we fail to obey His will, and when we fail to confess His Son as we should

Conclusion: