

Heb. 10:15-25

Last week we covered some pretty important topics. Such as **1)** the way the enemy and the world use distractions and offenses to pull people back from their faith in Jesus, **2)** the shadow of our past sin (if you are in Jesus) and the shadow of the sacrificial system in trying to deal with them (something that never worked), **3)** the reality our sin has been forgiven **past, present, and future** because we are sanctified (set apart completely to God [10:10]) and have been *perfected forever* (10:14) in the heavenlies while we work the process of transformation while in this body, and **4)** the reminder there is a day coming where Jesus is going to deal with all who love sin and have rejected Him, so that His people can live in perfect peace forever.

- Now I went through that quick review for a few reasons. The **first** is that in this list there are some key doctrinal issues. And what I mean by that, is for those really seeking to understand if God is real, or for those who have already received Jesus, there are some deeper questions we tend to search out the answers to.
- And in this book of **Hebrews** (just like book of **Romans**) we get so many of these types of answers and understandings. As a matter of fact, we will be visiting some of the pieces found in **Romans** today to paint a more complete picture of the things being presented today.
- But **2)** the other reason we reviewed them is **there is more information here in Hebrews related to these same pieces we are going to get into now**. And since these are the kinds of questions we have likely asked ourselves, **we can expect that others are looking for these answers also** (1 Pet. 3:15). So, let's dig in so we can be a source of the truth that sets people free and encourages us to keep pressing into Jesus.

¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them (Israel) after those days (the days when God makes His enemies His footstool), says the Lord: I will put My laws into their (Israel's) hearts, and in their minds I will write them," ¹⁷ then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." ¹⁸ Now where there is remission of these (their sins), there is no longer an offering for sin (because there is nothing to make restitution for if their sins have been wiped out and forgotten).

How great is it that last week we got to listen in on a conversation between **God the Father** and **God the Son** (verses 5-7), and this week we begin with hearing from **God the Holy Spirit**. And what is the topic? **The promise God has made to never be done with the nation of Israel**. As a matter of fact, we are drawn back to **Jer. 31:31-40** where the Holy Spirit spoke these words for us originally. And if you go there and read it for yourself you hear God say that as long as the universe exists and the limits of it cannot be fully known, Israel will continue to exist and be the apple of His eye (**Zech. 2:8**). And we know He is not speaking just of the land because He is specifically talking there (and telling us here) **He is talking about the Jewish (Hebrew) people**.

- For you students of the bible you know in **Dan. 9:24-27** we have a prophecy many have called **the seventy sevens of Daniel**. And in **verse 26** it tells us the Messiah would be cut off, but not for Himself. And we have since seen that fulfillment, for **John 1:11** tells us, "*He (Jesus) came to His own, and His own did not receive Him* (see also **John 19:15, Luke 19:14, Luke 13:34**)". And starting on Palm Sunday through His crucifixion, Jesus was rejected by Israel. And by and large is still rejected by them to this day.
- So, then we go to **Rom. 11** and get more info. In **verse 11** it asks in regard to Israel "*have they stumbled that they should fall?*" Then continues with the answer, "*Certainly not! But to provoke them (Israel) to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.*" Then continue on to **verses 25-29**, which read, "*For I (Paul speaking) do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Jesus is going to do this); ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins (not mankind's work, but Gods). " ²⁸ Concerning the gospel they (Israel) are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers (because that's who the promised covenants were given to). ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."*
- This is so important **because it distinguishes Israel from the church, but not the church or Israel from the new covenant** (8:1-9:28). And today there is so much confusion on this issue. Why? Because Satan hates Israel. Why? Because God loves them and will never forsake them. God is not done with Israel, nor will He ever be. Just read the bible. Those playing into this delusion of replacement theology are supporting Satan's desire, not God's heart. Don't be one of them.

And since (as we worked through in detail last week) there is no remembrance of sin (past, present, and future) for those who have or will come to Jesus. **There is no debt any longer to be paid.** It's gone forever. And since our God is our Father, and Jesus is our mediator and Great High Priest, there is no future debt that He has not already covered.

- But there is another treasure found in these verses, and it's the four "*I will*" statements of God. **1) He** is going to make the new covenant all on His own and on His side (and has). And **2) He** will put the new law (Rom. 8:2, Gal. 6:21, Cor. 9:21), of the new covenant in their hearts (it will be their every desire), **3) He** will write them on their minds (that's internal transformation), **4) and He** will forget all their sin. **And there is not a single mention of them doing anything to be a part of this saving work which will happen for the nation, other than receiving it in faith** (something we are going to get to very soon).
- And folks, that's been exactly what we've experienced. It's so consistent with what God has done for us in Jesus. We did absolutely nothing, while He has done it all. It's our choice to receive it or not.
- And as the time of the gentiles is coming to an end (because of the rapture of the church for the believer, and the coming tribulation for the unbeliever), **Israel is about to have their heart, eyes, and minds opened to what they missed at Jesus first coming.**

There are so many reasons this is important, but here the Holy Spirit is saying to these Jewish believers in Jesus that **as they are considering turning back, one day the nation will be saved. And if they turn back now, they will have forfeited what the others will be coming into.**

- I think this is so important because even today there are believers who are turning back because of potential or real losses of relationships with those who have not believed in Jesus- yet!. And wouldn't it be a shame that as they turn back from Jesus to appease their unbelieving family and loved ones, **that those same ones they turned back from Jesus in order to be with, then turn to Jesus?** Then the best they could hope for is to not miss connecting with them in this temporary state, while forfeiting eternity with them.
- And who knows when your devotion to Jesus will provoke them to jealousy of your relationship with God, causing them to seek His salvation too.
- Don't give up! Don't go back! There is too much at stake. And you don't know what God is working out right now. Be patient, because His plan is perfect. Yours and mine are often ill-conceived at best.

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest (the throne of heaven now) by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us... (this is where I insert one of those awkwardly placed pauses to set up the coming info 😊).

We have covered **1)** the New Covenant (or more accurately stated the final will and testament- being dictated by One as opposed to a covenant being between two or more), **2)** the blood and death of Jesus that instituted (activated) the New Covenant, and **3)** that Jesus is now our High Priest positioned to advocate and make intercession for us forever.

- That is all pretty incredible. But here we also find it listed for us that this *new way*, through the blood of Jesus, is a *living way*. Which brings us back to Jesus never being able to bodily die again, and therefore there never being a potential for a successor who could somehow change the covenant or will He instituted.

If we acknowledge it or not, there is always the looming possibility that our situation in this life can change in not so positive ways as new leaders, new laws, and new actions are instituted. That is a pressure many have been expressing in our nation since its founding (and is universally true throughout the world). So when we are reminded of the *living way*, made possible by the living God, we have what no one outside of faith in Jesus can have, and that is direct and intimate access with God, who never changes. That is real hope!

And after hearing the four "*I will*" statement of the Holy Spirit in **verses 16-17**, and what has been afforded to us by the work of Jesus, we now come to **3 statements of how they/we should respond**, each starting with the words "*let us*" (verse 22, 23, & 24).

- And each of these responses on our part come **after** the work of salvation God has done for us. That's why they are responses, not initiations of action. So let's take them one at a time.

²²let us draw near with a true (sincere) heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We have spent some time in [Ch. 9](#) talking about how the work of Jesus *cleansed our conscience* (9:14), and what a gift that is. And now He adds to that the *washing of our bodies...with pure water*. I think that's really significant because a lot of believers know their soul is washed and they have been made a new creation in Jesus, but struggle with what they still feel is the defilement of the flesh.

- But the bible tells us of a different reality. *It wasn't part of us that became a new creation, but all of us.* And [1 Cor. 6:11](#) says to us "*But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.* That's all of you.
- And here is why I think this is so important to God that He communicate this to us. He has made a way for us to *draw near* to Him. But He knows our short comings (which we all have), and the false messages about the completeness and finality of our salvation (coming from many sources inspired by Satan), *have caused many to settle for a distant relationship with Him. Is that you?*
- Well listen to the plea here to draw near to Him with *full assurance of faith*. Is that faith in your good behavior or deeds? No! We've already covered that. *It's full assurance in what Jesus has done, and the finality of it.*

What a shame it is when those who have trusted in Jesus then keep Him at a distance, questioning in their hearts if anything really changed, or changed enough, when they received Him as their savior.

- *None of us will walk perfectly, but Jesus' sacrifice perfectly covers us. So don't let your failures keep you from a perfect God!!!* He is inviting you to *draw near* to Him.
- And I believe the only way to be able to draw truly closer to each other is to first draw truly close to God. Superficial with Him will equate to superficial with others.

Number two.

²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering (the assurance of our salvation), *for He who promised is faithful*

We know these Jewish Christians were considering going back to Judaism because of the rejection of their family members and own nation. But what they didn't fully grasp was the rise in hostility of the Romans which was just around the corner (66 AD).

- While it's true that Roman Emperor Claudius, who reigned from 41-54 AD, tried to repeatedly expel the Jews from their own land, [12:4](#) makes it clear that *the persecution had not yet come to the point of the mass killing of Christians. That would occur under Nero.*
- And so this call to *hold fast* in their confession of Jesus was not based on what they could see or how they felt, but on what they knew to be true. Which is that *Jesus keeps His promises* even when what they/we see and are experiencing personally appears to be otherwise.

The world, your coworkers, your family, and even you can be unfaithful at times. And since that describes the vast majority of primary relations you can be in, it doesn't give us much in terms of personal experience that we can anchor this kind of absolutely unwavering faith in.

- But God is not like anyone else (including ourselves). *So we need to remember that our faith and hope in our eternal salvation in Him can remain unwavering, because He is unwavering in the keeping of His promises.*
- And here might be a reality exercise you can conduct for yourself. Are you currently as unwavering in answering the questions someone might have asked you for previously regarding your faith, or have you toned it down and left questionable space?
- Some might not like my answer, but because I believe in the unwavering promises of God and His faithfulness, if they ask, they are going to hear of my assurance in what God has promised. If they ask about my performance as a believer, I cannot be as confident in that, because that's my part. But His part and promises are something everyone of us can and should *hold fast* to. We should never apologize for hanging onto that reality.

Now for the final one of the three "*let us*" encouragements.

²⁴And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

One of the greatest blessings God has given us on earth is the family of faith. And as a family of believers, 1) we are to come together to share life, 2) to work side by side for the Lord, and 3) to encourage each other to keep pressing into Jesus in every season of life.

- So again, it should be no surprise to see the enemy working in every way he can to keep us from assembling ourselves together. Even after the COVID lockdowns, it was surprising to see how many took a year or more to return to church, or simply never came back. And then you heard the mantra that you don't have to go to church to be a follower of Jesus. Although it is true you can be saved and not go to church, don't believe that foolishness when the bible speaks so clearly that this is the will of God that we do so.
- 1 John 1:7 says to us, “*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*”. In Acts 2:42-47 we hear the early church 1) devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings (they got together and studied the word), 2) and the fellowship (that's speaking of meeting to live out and walk through their lives in Jesus together), 3) to the breaking of bread (that's eating together- not just communion), 4) and prayers (self-explanatory). That sounds a lot like what goes on here on a Sunday, and in many other locations throughout the week.
- And the call to *exhort one another* is the idea of coming alongside, encouraging, urging, and supporting one another. That's really hard to do if you are getting your church service primarily from podcasts or the internet.

The church is like the petri dish of faith. It's the place where everything we are learning in our bible grows in our lives.

- We learn and have the opportunity to serve, get services, connect, protect, and encourage and love one another.
- But it's also the place we can offend one another and get to practice grace, communication, confession, forgiveness, all leading to our continuing work of transformation.
- Folks, the church was God's design, not mans. And it is such a blessing. Don't be duped. And don't be absent from fellowship. You need the church and the church needs you.

And we have been told that as the last days draw near, we will see evil waxing worse and worse (2 Timothy 3:13), giving all the more reason to stay closely connected with others who have a shared faith in Jesus, to help encourage one another to **eagerly be awaiting the return of Jesus!**