

What are we to do in the last days?

From reading Wednesday 11/11/2020

Preached 11/15/2020

Announce

- Thanksgiving Sunday - next week
- Come prepared with a testimony to share.
- We want to be grateful to God - especially during this difficult time

Introduction

- We are working our way through Hebrews
- It's big theme is that we enter into the kingdom by faith
- I want to share vv23-25 of chapter 10 and apply them to the moment in which we are living right now
- **Point:** What are we to do in the last days

Exegesis

Context

- Contrasting the old covenant with the new
- Specifically in chapter 10 reminding us:
 - Law can't justify us - no matter how often sacrifices have been made
 - The truth is evidence of our feeling of guilt (v2)
 - Law reminds of our our sins (v3)
 - Christ's arrival is the institution of a new covenant - through faith in his blood. See **Heb 10:8-9 (NIV)** (8) *First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). (9) Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.*
 - We can approach the throne of God - not on the basis of our works (which falls short), but through the blood of Jesus!
- Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can draw near with confidence
 - In chapter 4, he's established the supremacy of the priesthood of Jesus. See **Heb 4:14-16 (NIV)** (14) *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. (16) Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*
 - And again we find **Heb 10:19-22 (NIV)** (19) *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near to God with a sincere heart*

in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

- We have been cleansed - we can draw near!

Text

- This morning I want to look at **Heb 10:23-25 (NIV)** (23) *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (25) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- From this text I want to share what we as believers should be doing in the last days.
- First let's break it down

Hope we profess

- This background leads us to understand the phrase *the hope we profess*
- This hope is that when Christ came - he fulfilled the old covenant - satisfying it's requirements and paying the penalty for those who fail. Our great high priest (the chapters leading up to this one establish Jesus as a better high priest) is a mediator of this new covenant.
- His blood cleanses us from all our sin
- Here is the hope: **Heb 10:10 (NIV)** (10) *And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. See also **Heb 10:14 (NIV)** (14) because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*
- We are made perfect through His blood!

- **Note:** Are we professing this hope? Is this what's coming out of our mouths? **Rom 10:9-10 (NIV)** (9) *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*
- In this difficult time - we should be vocally professing the hope of our salvation through Jesus Christ

Let us hold unswervingly

- One of the themes in this great book... maybe even THE theme is that we hold on to our faith
- Effort, energy and focus
- Not turning around - no quitting
- This is our job RIGHT NOW

He is faithful

- *For he who promised is faithful. (23b)*
- If God said it, he will do it

Spurring one another on

- *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*
- Team sport
- We should be thinking about how to help one another cross the finish line
- What if we took this admonition for our brothers and sisters seriously? What would the church look like then?

- **Homework:** I want you to find someone who needs encouragement and figure out how you can help them finish the race successfully
- **Note:** We are not to be criticizing our fellow believer, but urging them on

Toward love

- This is the metric by which we will be measured - how well did we love?
- We should encourage one another to keep on loving: God, the body and a lost world

Towards good deeds

- So easy to withdraw
- We must encourage one another in doing good!
- How can we find ways to encourage each other?

Forsaking not

- *(25) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- This is the take away - let us keep meeting together
- We need it so we can encourage each other
- This becomes more critical as the day (of His return) approaches
- This has been challenging this year - but we need to continue to come together to encourage one another
- We spoke last week about the things that will happen before Christ returns. There will be a great falling away.
- We must come together even as the deception spreads
- Christ is in us (the body)

- He ministers to us through the Holy Spirit he's placed in us - we all have something specific we are to do for the body
- We need to be together

Summary

How should we live in these last days?

Cling to our hope in Christ

- No matter what comes - we can trust him
- He is faithful
- Reminder - Don't allow anything to take your eyes off of Jesus
- He paid the price for us
- We have been forgiven
- **Note:** Next week is the Sunday before thanksgiving
 - Share testimonies of God's goodness and grace to us in this difficult year
 - Celebrate communion

Encourage our brothers and sisters

- We are responsible for one another!
- This is something we've forgotten - but we are to bear one another's burdens
- What can you do this week to encourage someone to hold on to their faith?
 - To keep loving even when it's not something they're receiving
 - To keep doing good?

Meet together

- How do we do this - in the context of the local church
- We must meet together - it is through the gathering together that we can fulfill our job to build one another up
- God puts His Spirit in us so that we can be his agents here
- If we need Jesus... we need the body!
- See how this is under attack right now
- The virus keeps us from meeting sometimes - but we need to reach out!
- If we are going to endure until the end we need each other!