

Hebrews 10:19-38

A Final Exhortation and Warning – March 14, 2026

Reminder of our Background and setting for the book of Hebrews: The Jewish Christians were under great persecution. Nero was after them, they were threatened and their lives were at risk. The author of Hebrews is writing to these Hebrew Christians and some of the Jews who were considering the evidence of Jesus as the Messiah. They were being tempted to escape this persecution by returning to Judaism. As Brett presented last week, the entire book up to now has been making the argument that Jesus is Superior.

- Hebrews 1 – He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, He created the world and upholds the universe by His word. He is Superior to the prophets and angels who brought the Law to Moses.
- Hebrews 3 – He is superior to Moses himself.
- Hebrews 5 – He is a superior priesthood appointed by God after the order of Melchizedek.
- Hebrews 6 – He offers a superior Hope and promise.
- Hebrews 7 – His priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood and able to save completely.
- Hebrews 8 – He is seated at the right hand of God in heaven and offers a superior covenant.
- Hebrews 9 – He is our high priest serving in a heavenly temple where His sacrifice is also superior to any sacrifice of the old covenant and is able to cleanse the conscience.

I tell you all this because today we are coming to a climax of the first 10 chapters of Hebrews. The author has presented his case and as he sets up for his closing arguments he takes one more shot at the old covenant in Hebrews 10:3-4

Hebrews 10:3-4 ³But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

- The old covenant does not remove our sins, it only covers our sins until we sin again. So, sacrifices only served as a reminder of their sins. Their sacrifices could not cleanse their conscience.

And he closes with a quote from Jesus and tells us the old covenant has “been done away with” and has been replaced with a better covenant in verses 9-10:

Hebrews 10:9-10 “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first, in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will (that last will and testament enacted by His death) **we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

- “once for all.” There is no need for animal sacrifices, temple offerings and repeated temple rituals.
- Believers have been sanctified or cleansed. No old covenant could do that.
- This is hard for us to understand. Our lives have not been ordered around the temple. For the Hebrews this literally turned their life upside down.
- Let me add one more verse. One of the highlight verses from our study: **Hebrews 7:25** Consequently, He is able to save to the UTTERMOST those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- **Psalms 103:12** “as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. The “Uttermost,”

Now in the verses we will study today, the author concludes his message with an exhortation, STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT, and a final warning.

Let me pick up in **chapter 10 verse 18** saying, “Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.” IT IS DONE.

Hebrews 10:19-25 ¹⁹Therefore, brothers,^[c] since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²**let us draw near** with a true heart

in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And **let us consider how to stir up one another** to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Following the exhaustive argument in the first 9 chapters to present the case of Jesus and the new covenant to the believing Jews, the author begins with a “Therefore.” – Christ’s work is complete.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

- The author says in verse 19, “since we have confidence to enter the holy of holy places by the blood of Jesus, the “new and living way” that He opened for us through the curtain that is His flesh.”
- No believer and practicer of the old covenant would ever attempt to enter the Holy of Holies. The high priest would only cross the veil that separated the holy place from the holy of holies once a year on the day of atonement. **Mark 15:37-38** says, after Jesus uttered a loud cry on the cross and breathed His last, ³⁸ the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. It was ONLY the death of Christ that could tear the veil that separated man from God and open “a new and living way” to the heavenly sanctuary where God dwells.

Since His work of sacrificing His flesh is finished once and for all, we now have a great high priest who is sitting in the heavenly temple at the right hand of God.

- The author now extends the **exhortation** to press into THREE THINGS to put our faith into action and live out our faith in our communities.

FIRST verse 22, ²² **let us draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of **FAITH**, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Since we have a great high priest who gives us access to the very throne of God, **LET US DRAW NEAR TO HIM**. Let us draw near to Him with a “true heart”. A true heart is a sincere, genuine, and undivided heart that honestly seeks God.

Jeremiah 29:13 ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

- Let us draw near to God in the full assurance of faith. Starting in Genesis, the author has presented the evidence and made the argument that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of the Law and the prophets, He offers a better covenant, and as our high priest, is continuously making petition for us in the heavenly temple.
- The OT priest would have to wash before they went into the holy place, and the high priest had to go through various washings and applying of blood on the day of atonement to enter the holy of holies. We come to God with “hearts sprinkled clean.” Our “conscience” being cleansed because our sins are forgiven and forgotten. Eliminated and wiped out to the “uttermost.”
- Our hearts AND our bodies are now cleansed. Our sin is removed and our conscience can be free from guilt. This is a spiritual cleansing of both the body and the heart. We are cleansed by the Holy Spirit inside and out. This verse is SO assuring to those who can’t shake the guilt that comes from giving their body and giving themselves in sin to another person. We cannot undo the experience, But this verse tells us through Christ, the Holy Spirit can cleanse **both the body and heart**. Remember **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ.
- **SO LET US DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH.**

SECOND exhortation in verse 23. ²³ **Let us hold fast** the confession of our **hope** without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- The readers of this letter were tempted to go back to the old covenant worship, but the author is exhorting them to “hold fast the confession of our hope.”
- Wiersbe comments that the author did not tell them to “hold fast their salvation” for that was already secure. He exhorted them to “hold fast the confession of our **hope.**” The believers in this day, and we believers today are called to “**hold fast**” to **never let go of the hope of our Savior.** Our Savior who we await His return and await an everlasting city to come. Our hope does not stand on uncertain ground. Because God is faithful, our hope is unwavering and we stand on the faithfulness of God.
- The second exhortation or encouragement is to **HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE.**

The THIRD exhortation. ²⁴ **And let us consider how to stir up one another to LOVE** and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- The word “stir” in this verse is the Greek word **paroxysmon**, meaning to stimulate, to provoke or irritate. I was reminded since it is Rodeo season of a talk I heard on this verse from the NIV that uses the word “spur” one another. He described the cowboy digging his spurs into the ribs of a bucking bronco to irritate him and get him to buck wildly. You may have heard the saying, “let the fur fly.” When you properly dig your spurs into the ribs and rake them back, you can see the fur fly.

Remember the four warnings given to the Hebrew Christians.

1. Hebrews 2:1-4 – Warns of the believer who begins to **drift.**
2. Hebrews 3:7-4:13 – Warns of the believer who begins to **doubt.**

3. Hebrews 5:11 – Warns of the believer who becomes ***Dull to the Word.***”
4. Hebrews 6:6 – Warns of the believer who falls away, is worthless and has *no reward*.

So, what does it look like to “spur” one another on to love and good works?

- When one of our fellowship begins to drift away.
- When one of our body experiences times of doubt
- When we notice that someone is absent because the Word has become Dull and they have become disinterested
- Or when we see or hear of a believer that has literally fallen away from their faith.

We need to “LET THE FUR FLY.” Don’t be timid. Make the call or send the text. Ask the tough questions. Are you OK? We have missed you. Or, maybe we need to talk about a behavior or action that needs to be addressed. Maybe we need to get a little uncomfortable?

Each of our members have been assigned to an Elder. It is our responsibility to connect with you, take notice and be available to assist in times of need. It is also the responsibility of you, the entire fellowship of believers to guard, to protect and to love one another to good works. If we are not regularly meeting together, we are unable to love one another and encourage one another in the hope that we have in the Day of the coming of Christ.

The author’s exhortation to the Hebrew Christians following all of the doctrines that he has laid out in chapters 1-9 : He says, since Jesus is our high priest.

- DRAW NEAR TO GOD IN FULL ASSURANCE OF **FAITH**.
- HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR **HOPE**.
- SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TO **LOVE** AND GOOD WORKS.

Faith, Hope, and Love.

Now the warning: If there were ever a verse to preach a fire and brimstone, turn or burn warning to get those who have the knowledge but just haven't fully believed, this is it!

Hebrews 10:26-31 ²⁶For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Remember back in chapter 6, the author was specifically addressing the Jewish Christians that had fully comprehended and believed Jesus as the Messiah, CHRISTIANS, who were experiencing persecution and tempting to go back to Judaism. We know this from the fourth warning to the Hebrews written in chapter 6.

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,

- These are clearly those that have accepted Jesus in faith.
- They have been **enlightened**, exposed to the gospel, "the light goes on" and the truth is illuminated in their heart.
- They have **tasted the heavenly gift**, the "GIFT" of Grace. **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by GRACE you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the GIFT of God,
- They have **shared in the Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth of Jesus in your life. The Spirit convicts you of sin, the Spirit exposes us to the power of God and the hope of the resurrection, and

the Spirit gives the believer gifts to be used to build up the body for the common good.

- And finally, they have **tasted the goodness of the Word of God** that contains all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Verse 26 is the fifth and final warning to the Hebrews. The fifth warning follows the escalating sequence. It is possibly the strongest warning in all of Scripture to those considering full assurance in Christ. The fourth warning of Hebrews 6:4-6 warns the BELIEVER who becomes dull to the Word and falls away that there is no guarantee the Holy Spirit will call them back to repentance and their life will be unfruitful, worthless and they will receive no reward.

Now in our text verse 26-27 says, “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the **knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”

- For if “we,” I believe the author is now speaking to the broader Hebrew group who at one time had come to a full **knowledge of the truth**, have fallen away, and living a life of willful and deliberate sin. Notice he does not establish as he did in chapter 6 that these “tasted the heavenly gift of grace,” “shared in the Spirit,” and “tasted the goodness of the Word of God.” These are Hebrews who came to the full knowledge of the truth, identified with the Christians, but have not come all the way to faith in Christ.
- If we “go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth” – Under the Old Covenant to which they were considering returning, there was no sacrifice that could cover for willful and deliberate sins. According to Numbers 15:27-31 and Deuteronomy 17:1-7, willful and deliberate sin was punishable by death and not covered by a sacrifice.
- He ends this warning saying, they make themselves adversaries of God and can expect a severe judgment of fire.

- If you know someone who has come to the “full knowledge of the truth” but is lost to willful and deliberate sin, it might be time to dig your heels into their ribs and let the fur fly!

Hebrews 10:28-30 ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

- Anyone who has **set aside** the Law of Moses” means to deliberately reject, disregard, or treat the Mosaic Law as invalid after knowing it.
- The violations of the Mosaic Law that was punishable by death were:
 - **Idolatry** – Deuteronomy 17:2–7
 - **Blasphemy** – Leviticus 24:13–16
 - **High-handed (defiant) sin** – Numbers 15:30–31
- The consequence of rejecting and disregarding the Law is that person “dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.” The author is referencing **Deuteronomy 17:6** saying, ⁶ On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death.
- So if death is the consequence of willfully and deliberately sinning against the Old Covenant, the author says in verse 29 ²⁹ “How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?”
- What does it mean to trample underfoot? You don’t step on something of value. If it was of value, you might pick it up or walk around it. But to trample underfoot would be to regard it as worthless.
 - To disregard the Son of God, whom God exalted, would be to reject God the Father.

- To profane the blood of the covenant would be to reject Christ and His covenant.
- To reject God the Father and reject Christ, you are also rejecting the Holy Spirit.
- So, if rejection of the Law brought death under the Old Covenant, how much more serious it is to reject the Father, Son and Spirit under the New Covenant?

Hebrews 10:30-31 ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- Be warned it is a fearful and terrifying thing to make yourself an adversary of God and experience His righteous judgment.
- If you have the knowledge of the truth. Come all the way and draw near to God in faith and taste the heavenly gift of grace.

Hebrews 10:32-34 ³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

- “But recall,” **Look back and remember.** You were enlightened – you came to a full knowledge of Christ. You were associated with Christians, you even endured hardship and suffering for your convictions. You served and you had compassion for others who were suffering.

Hebrews 10:35-39 ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. ³⁷ For,

“Yet a little while,

and the coming one will come and will not delay;

³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith,

and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Verse 35-37, Therefore, **Look Forward.**

- Don't drift. Don't become dull, do not fall way, but **DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND KEEP THE FAITH.**
- For your reward is great. Be patient, hang in there and **HOLD FAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE.**

In Verses 38-39: Again, I believe he is speaking to the Hebrews that have come to the full knowledge of Christ but have not fully believed.

- Verse 39, We are not those who come all the way to full knowledge but shrink back, do not believe, and are destroyed.
- He concludes with encouragement. “We **ARE** the ones who have faith and preserve our souls.” He is **SPURRING HIS BROTHER ON TO FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.**
- **KEEP THE FAITH, HOLD ON TO THE HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST, AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

What does Jesus want me to know?

Remember and Know

- We all inherited the sin of Adam and were born in sin.
- We are all convicted by our sin and called to repentance.
- We will all die. We will all face judgment. We all have access to a Savior that can cleanse our heart and our body.
- Through faith, we declare Jesus and His death and His resurrection as a perfect offering removing our sins for all time.
- Jesus' work is complete and He sits at the right hand of God as our perfect High Priest.

5 warnings to all of us: Beware of...

1. Drifting away
2. Embracing doubt
3. Becoming dull to the word
4. Falling away
5. Willful and deliberate sin

It is a fearful and terrifying thing to make yourself an adversary of God and experience His righteous judgment.

What are we to do?

- Draw near to God in full assurance of **FAITH**.
- Hold fast the confession of our **HOPE**.
- Spur one another to **LOVE** and good works.