

CHRIST PROVIDES SUPERIOR CONFIDENCE

HEBREWS 10:19-31

Aim of the lesson: To learn how to lay hold of the confidence and endurance that Christ provides.

POSSESSIONS OF BELIEVERS – 10:19-21: Believers have two spiritual possessions in Christ that should give them superior confidence with God, far more than the confidence Old Testament believers had with God.

They have access into the holy presence of God, which Christ made possible by His blood [10:19-20]. He tore down the veil by the sacrifice of His flesh on the cross to make for believers a new and living way to live.

They have Jesus Christ as their great High Priest in Heaven who can sympathize with their weaknesses and help them with encouragement, strength and supplies for every need [10:21; 4:14-16].

PETITIONS TO BELIEVERS – 10:22-25: Faith, hope and love are expressions of confidence found in Christ.

Let us draw near to God in faith having our hearts sprinkled and our bodies washed with pure water [10:22]. Old Testament priests sprinkled an animal's blood on the altar and then washed their bodies with water from the laver before they could come near to God. But New Testament believers have their hearts sprinkled with Christ's blood [Rev 7:14] and are washed inwardly by the water of God's Word [Eph 5:26].

Let us hold fast our confession of hope for God is faithful in keeping His promises [10:23]. Hope makes us sure about God's promises of future blessings. We will go to Heaven and then reign with Christ on earth!!

Let us consider (carefully observe) one another to stir up each other to love and good works [10:24-25]. This is done when we attend church services and encourage each other to love God and do good works in His name. That will help us to be ready for the day when Christ returns.

FOURTH APPEAL – 10:26-31: Do not flout the vengeance of God's judgment

[See the next page for a graphic.]

PROBLEM OF BELIEVERS – 10:26-29: Willful sin destroys a believer's confidence.

Willful sin is presumptuous sin and deserves severe punishment [Num 15:30-31; Ps 19:13]. David sinned willfully and only his broken heart and God's mercy saved him from death [Ps 51:1, 16].

Willful sin walks on Christ, counts His blood as common and despises/insults the Spirit of grace. There is no sacrifice that will remove God's punishment from believers for willful sin.

Willful sin will be punished to some degree, even when the mercy of God is given.

Distress in the lives of family members: David [2 Sam 12:9-14].

Discipline in one's body: Asa [2 Chr 16:12]; Uzziah [26:16-21]; immoral man [1 Cor 5:5; cf 1 Tim 1:19-20].

Disapproval for future service and rewards: concern of Paul [1 Cor 9:27]; rewards are lost [1 Cor 3:11-15].

Death prematurely: Ananias/Sapphira [Acts 5:1-11]; those taking the Lord's Supper improperly [1 Cor 11:30].

PROSECUTION OF BELIEVERS – 10:30-31 – It is a fearful thing to be judged by the living God [10:31].

God judges His people [5 facts in these verses which prove that God judges believers]:

1. Context [10:19-39] – The persons who are judged are the same ones who were illuminated [10:32], and who have a better and enduring substance in Heaven [10:34].
2. "We" [10:26] – The author includes himself with the possibility of having no sacrifice for his sins.
3. "Sanctified" [10:29] – Only believers can be sanctified by Christ [10:10, 14].
4. "His people" [10:30] – The Lord is judging "His people," not Satan's people.
5. "Just" [10:38] – "The just shall live by faith, but if he (the just one) draws back," God will have no pleasure in him. The "just" could turn back to Judaism or to the world, but he would be judged by God.

WE DEFY GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 10:28-31



WHEN WE FLOUT THE VENGEANCE OF HIS JUDGMENT

CHRIST PROVIDES SUPERIOR ENDURANCE

HEBREWS 10: 32-39

PERFORMANCE OF BELIEVERS – 10:32-34

They had endured a great fight of afflictions after they were saved – 10:32-33.

After they were “illuminated” (same word is translated “enlightened” in 6:4) as genuine believers, they had a fight on their hands with those that hated Christ. They suffered open ridicule by reproaches and afflictions for their identification with Christ and for their identification with other believers that were attacked. In spite of the violent assaults against them, they did not waver in their stand for Christ.

They had compassion for those that had been put in prison – 10:34.

They visited those in prison, willing to suffer with them, if need be, to encourage them to stand firm in their faith in Christ and to show compassion to them by their loving care for their physical and spiritual needs.

They had suffered joyfully in the loss of their earthly goods – 10:34.

It is difficult for a person to see his possessions confiscated by ungodly people, but these believers restrained their natural impulse to grieve over their loss and replaced it with a joyful attitude that the Holy Spirit gives to those that submit to Him. They learned that when the Spirit is in control of their lives, He fills them with joy that cannot be quenched by the seizure of their earthly goods.

POWER OF BELIEVERS – 10:34-35: The reason why these believers had power to **endure** trials and afflictions with joy is given below.

They knew that they had better possessions in Heaven that endured forever – 10:34.

They had received the gift of eternal life, which is of far greater value than any possession that they owned on earth. They also knew that they would be like Christ when they would see Him in Heaven (1 Jn 3:2), so it was their joy to be like Him and suffer for Him like He had suffered for them. Moreover, Christ’s promise to them of glory and power in reigning over the entire earth during His Millennial Kingdom (Rev 2:23-27; 3:21; 20:4) made the loss of their goods ludicrous by comparison.

They were encouraged not to throw away their confidence in God’s promise and lose their reward – 10:35.

Their reward depended on their confidence in God. Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him [Heb 11:6].

PROMISE OF BELIEVERS – 10:36-39

Needed to endure in doing God’s will, so they would receive the promise of His reward – 10:36.

Needed to remember Christ’s coming when He will reward believers – 10:37.

Needed to live by faith in God to please Him and receive His reward – 10:38a.

God will give rich rewards to those that believe Him. These rewards could well be places where believers will rule in Christ’s Kingdom on earth (Lk 19:11-19). These rewards will enable believers to bring glory to God and His Son for 1000 years.

Needed to heed God’s warning so He could keep them from drawing back to destruction – 10:38b.

God warned Jewish believers not to “draw back to perdition,” the religious system that He destroyed when Jesus finished His work on the cross. If anyone returned to Judaism, they would be joining His enemies that crucified His Son. Gentiles that returned to the world would be like Jews that returned to Judaism.

Needed to grow in faith so they would endure to full salvation, and not draw back to destruction – 10:39.

Faith comes by knowing what God says in His Word. Faith pleases God. When believers have faith in Him, they will stay close to Him and not be attracted to the sinful pleasures of the world. That is how they will have the full assurance of their salvation.