

Letter to the Hebrews

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – July 20, 2008
Series No. DA-HEB-21

Warning #5 Don't Lose Confidence Hebrews 10:32-39

I. THE CONDITION (Verse 35)

Don't throw away your confidence in Christ or shrink back in your life of faith (*John 11:24; 16:25; 18:20; Acts 4:13; Heb.4:16; 10; 19, 35*).

II. THE CIRCUMSTANCES (Verses 32-34, 36)

Remember your past suffering for Christ (*vs.32-34*):

1. You were reviled, insulted and afflicted when you first became a believer (*vs.33a; Heb.11:26; 13:13*).
2. You were willing to be identified with those who were also suffering (*vs.33b; 1 Thess.2:14*).
3. You showed sympathy towards those who were imprisoned for the cause of Christ (*vs.34a*).
4. You joyfully accepted the seizure of your property (*vs.34b*).

You are encouraged to continue in the will of God (*vs.36*).

1. Remember that your hope is not on this earth but that your certain future inheritance is in Heaven with Christ (*Heb.9:15; 12:2, 3; Hab.1:12-2:20*).

III. THE CONSEQUENCES (Verses 35-39)

Three possible consequences of shrinking back:

1. Loss of reward (*vs.35b*).
2. Loss of the Lord's pleasure (*vs.38a, 39a,c*).
3. Physical destruction (*vs.39b*).

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Application

What are some of the ways that you can guard yourself against losing confidence and shrinking back in your faith?

Apathy

It is easy and natural to allow the cares of this life – making a living, raising a family, keeping up with the neighbors, storing up goods for the future, etc. – sap your spiritual energy. Consider specific actions you can take to counter this tendency.

Forgetfulness

The problem with the Hebrews was that they had forgotten what conditions were like when they first became believers in Christ. In the past they had willingly accepted persecution for the sake of Christ but now this prospect was causing them to have second thoughts. Stop – consider where you have come from. Evaluate your present priorities. Ask yourself “What is really important in my life”.

Persecution

Christians have had it easy in Canada in the past but this is changing. There is a real prospect that in the not too distant future you will have to undergo some of the things described in this passage. Be prepared for this.

As of 2008 it is no longer acceptable to express opinions on certain Biblical issues in the public forum. So far this is accepted within the church walls. Opinions on the exclusive nature of salvation in Christ, on male and female roles, and on abortion are no longer publicly acceptable. Examples abound – be informed. Things will get worse – equip yourself for the coming storm.