

080325

“THE LIFE OF FAITH”

Hebrews 10:32-39

Series: Christ Before Us #30

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Background

The NT frequently calls for endurance or perseverance. It often uses the analogy of a race or a contest. This includes Hebrews:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (12:1-2a NIV)

The great cloud of witnesses are all those who have faithfully completed the race. Jesus also has run the race and finished the course. He is the pioneer, our forerunner.

The three passages that we have been looking at form a unit. They feature exhortation (19-25), a severe warning (26-31), and now reassurance (32-39).

The reassurance (32-39) looks ahead to chapters 11–12 which will deal more fully with the themes of living by faith (ch.11) and perseverance or endurance (ch. 12).

Sermon Text: *Hebrews 10:32-39*

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33

Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For,

“In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”

38 And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”

39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Discussion Questions

Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

Sunday Questions:

Looking Back in Faith

Q1: In Hebrews 10:32, the preacher tells believers to “remember those earlier days” after receiving the light. Why is looking back on our early faith experiences important for perseverance?

Perseverance under Pressure

Q2: The original audience faced public insult, persecution, and loss of property (vv. 33–34). How did they respond, and what does this teach us about enduring hardship?

Confidence in God’s Presence

Q3: Verse 35 warns against throwing away our confidence. According to the sermon, what does “confidence” mean here, and why is it worth holding onto?

The Coming One

Q4: The preacher quotes Habakkuk 2 and Isaiah 26 about “he who is coming will come.” How is this meant to encourage believers?

Shrinking Back vs. Moving Forward

Q5: In verse 39, two paths are described — shrinking back to destruction or persevering in faith to salvation. What are some ways we might “shrink back” today?

Role of the Christian Community

Q6: How can meeting together (10:24–25) help us persevere in the Christian race?