

LIFE Bible Study: Hebrews 10:19-39

For Discussion: What are the difficulties associated with long-distance relationships? How do you guard such a relationship and build it through the distance?

Read Hebrews 10:19-39

For review: In Hebrews 10:1-18, the author highlighted the importance of Christ's ministry, specifically the value and efficacy of His sacrifice. The animal sacrifices of the old covenant were not God's greatest desire from His people. They were a provision necessitated by the people's inability to keep the covenant's commands and conditions. Rather, God's desire is for His people to do His will. This was accomplished by Christ, who perfectly obeyed God and became the one offering that was able to take away sin and do away with the old sacrifices that were consigned to endless repetition. Having amply provided the reasons for confidence in their faith (i.e., Christ's superior priesthood, character, covenant, ministry, and sacrifice), the author gives a concluding exhortation for his readers to endure in that faith, along with a solemn warning to not turn away from the truths that had been given.

In light of their acceptance before God because of the ministry of Christ, the great priest, and the merit of His blood, the author exhorts his readers to respond rightly to their relationship with God that they now have through Him. What does the author invite his readers to join him in doing? How can we follow the author's lead in each of these areas?

Response	Application

What is the Day that is drawing near and why is it important that we live in light of its approach (Heb. 9:27-28; 10:30, 35-36, 39)? How does the author describe the fate of those who claim to have faith but live a life marked by deliberate ongoing sin? Why is their punishment so severe?

Even as the recipients of the author's letter faced difficult circumstances in their present and immediate future, he directs them to look to the past. What does he instruct them to recall? How would this be helpful to them in the present? What has God done in the early days of your faith that can be an encouragement to you now?

The author closes this section with a quote from Habakkuk 2:3-4 that sums up one of his main takeaways, "the righteous shall live by his faith." Where do matters of faith intersect with the concerns of your daily life (1 Cor. 10:31)? What does it look like to live by faith in these areas (2 Cor. 5:6-10)?

Reflection and application

Our relationship with God is now marked by confidence because the way to Him has been opened by Jesus, our great priest. In the author's exhortations, he encourages us to exercise our faith in God and make it sure, going boldly to Him and holding firmly to the object of our hope, so that we can then take part in strengthening the faith of others with a recognition of the coming Day of the Lord. On that day there will be assurance on both sides, salvation and blessing for those who are Christ's and just vengeance for those who have rejected Him.

In light of this, we would do well to carefully consider and prayerfully ask God to show us the state of our hearts before Him. It can be easy to be outwardly involved but not have true faith, to come before God but be captivated by worldly things and the concerns of this life, and to be in the midst of God's people but be disengaged from the community and entirely self-focused. Be challenged by the author's warning if your life lacks the fruit of true faith (Heb. 6:7-8). We are each to answer the call to perseverance, obedience, and the pursuit of a faith that is bold, a hope that is steadfast, and a love that is selfless.