

DO NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE

(Heb. 10:35-39)

Introduction:

1. The Hebrews author wrote by inspiration this amazing letter we call the book of Hebrews. He wrote to Christians who had come out of Judaism who were contemplating returning to Judaism. An amazing aspect of this letter is how applicable it is today to Christians who did not come out of Judaism but still consider returning to unfaithfulness to God from faithfulness to God.
2. The Hebrews author made three main arguments: proving that what we have in Christ is better than anything else; proving how we are better off now than we were before; and finally an impassioned plea not to fall away.

Discussion:

I. What we have is better (Heb. 1-5).

- A. The Hebrews author begins his letter by immediately proving the superiority of Christ and Christianity.
 1. God has spoken at various times through various people but the words through Christ are the last (1:1, 2), and the most important (1:3; 2:1-4).
 2. Angels are mighty and godly, but the Son is superior to them. Angels are servants of God (1:7, 14), but the Son shares the throne (1:8-13).
- B. The Christ was perfected by coming in the flesh and suffering with us and for us.
 1. He came from the Father and was humbled like us, for us (2:9, 10).
 2. This reality makes the Christ our brother (Emmanuel = God with us-2:11) and our savior (2:16-18).
- C. The Christ is superior to Moses (3:1-6), but just as those who disobeyed the words of Moses fell in the wilderness (3:17) so too those who disobey the words of Christ will fall (4:11).
- D. Rejoice! Our high priest can sympathize with our weaknesses though He is without sin (4:15; 5:2, 8, 9).

II. Now versus then (Heb. 6-9).

- A. Christians have tasted the good word of God (cp. 1 Pet. 2:3) and been enlightened. Christians have tasted the heavenly gift and become partakers of the Holy Spirit (6:4, 5). To turn back from this is to reject the fulfillment of the promise of God (6:6-20).
- B. Remember the foreshadowing of Christ in Melchizedek and realize a new priesthood means a new covenant (7).
- C. This new covenant was spoken of in the old (8).
- D. The old was just a shadow of the new, to prepare for the new (9; cp. Gal. 3).

III. Don't fall away (Heb. 10-13).

- A. God offered salvation to the world through His Son. Previous systems were just to cover (and prepare) mankind until the realization of the promise. To turn away from that salvation which is part of the new system is to deny God, insult the Spirit, and count the blood of the Christ as nothing (10).
- B. There is nothing new with the new covenant; it is a covenant of faith. Consider all those who were faithful without seeing the Christ, and praise God that Christians have seen His coming (11).
- C. Therefore, do not turn away because of persecution, nor the chastening of God. Christians have a kingdom never to be shaken so DO NOT BE SHAKEN (12)!!
- D. Therefore, love one another (13:1-4), live righteously (13:5, 6), submit to your rulers (13:7, 17), stand fast with Christ (13:8-14), praise God with word and deed (13:15, 16).

Conclusion:

1. Heb. 13:20-22.

2. Consider that what we have is also better; remember our then versus our now; and be admonished/reminded and don't fall away.
3. Instead, heed the admonition of Heb. 5:9. Keep on obeying and keep on being saved!
3. Invitation.

MORE ON "DO NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE"

1. The false teaching of once saved always saved is pervasive in our day and age, but that does not make it any less false.
 - a. The whole premise of the Hebrews letter destroys this false teaching which is yet somehow pervasive in the denominational world.
 1. Why admonish Christians to not throw away their confidence when that is supposedly impossible?
 2. Why use Israel in the wilderness as a test case of falling away after being saved if falling away is impossible (Heb. 3:12; 4:11; 6:4-12; 10:26-27, 35-39; 12:12-15, 25-29; 13:9)?
 - b. The proverbial nail in the coffin (Gal. 5:4).
2. The reality and sanity of it all.
 - A. Salvation via forgiveness of sin is only possible IN Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:23; 6:3, 23; 8:1-4, 29; 9:32 [cp. Gal. 5:4]; John 14:6; Acts 2:38-47; Gal. 3:25-29; 1 John 1:7-10).
 - B. Why would someone choose to be outside of Christ, and not IN Christ?
 - C. Why would someone choose to go to hell without Christ, and not go to heaven IN Christ.
3. In contrast with throwing away our confidence we ought to strive to make our confidence sure (Heb. 10:35 vs. 2 Pet. 1:3-11).
4. Do not be deceived (Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 3:17, 18; 6:9-11; 15:33; Gal. 1:6-9; 3:1-5; 5:1-4; 6:7; Eph. 5:1-7; 2 Tim. 3:1-17; Titus 3:1-7; 1 John 1:8; 3:7; et al).