

A Persevering Faith

August 15, 2021

Precepts

Opening Question(s)

Discuss the statement: “Through faith in Christ, our sins are forgiven and we have a new life.”

HEBREWS 10:23- 26 (NLT)

23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins.

HEBREWS 10:27- 29 (NLT)

27 There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.

28 For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us.

HEBREWS 10:30- 33 (NLT)

30 For we know the one who said, “I will take revenge. I will pay them back.” He also said, “The LORD will judge his own people.”

31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.

33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.

HEBREWS 10:34- 36 (NLT)

34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.

35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!

36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we draw near and remain in the presence of God each day? How can we truly experience God's presence?
2. What is the Church's relationship with persecution today? Are Western churches really persecuted? What does this status mean for persevering in the faith?

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

The world focuses on tangible rewards, promotions, and recognition with financial bonuses. The world encourages the pursuit of tangible endeavors and earthly wealth with retirement plans focused on life in the world. As believers, we have a purpose that is not focused on earthly rewards. Because we have accepted Christ by faith, we are friends of Christ with a purpose to share our love for Christ through faith.

Consider local ministries that allow you to share your faith in God. Volunteer your time to share your love for God with people who do not know Him, or share your faith and encourage believers who are homebound or sick. Help others to remain faithful and experience the presence of God each day. Make a daily affirmation to share your faith. Finally, ask God for boldness to share your faith with others. God will give you the opportunity and bless your desire to be faithful.