

The remainder of our time will focus on looking unto Jesus as the perfect, faultless runner. He has a unique relationship to “the faith”: Hebrews 1:1-10:18. He authored it. He lived it in flawless perfection—on your behalf.

He was tempted in all points as we are—yet w/o sin. Ponder the “all points” as they are described in the gospels.

The ultimate expression of His endurance was “enduring the cross”.

We think rightly about the incomprehensible physical pain. But he endured something more terrible than physical pain and shame.

Many brave martyrs and other Christian sufferers have suffered greatly and yet experienced God's upholding assistance in that suffering: “Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed.” Psalm 22:4,5.

In order for Christ to finish the faith for us He had to become a curse, the object of God's curse on sin, and consequently be entirely forsaken under divine wrath.

Christ did not just feel forsaken or imagine that he was forsaken—He actually was forsaken—My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? **Psalm 22:1.**

AND YET—His faith *never wavered* in the slightest degree!

Our race has an end: Hebrews 2:10 “glory”, read Randy Alcorn's book, *HEAVEN*.

Christ's race had an end, “**the joy set before Him**”. Jesus ran His race *by faith*. Pastor Mark Minnick reminds us that Jesus had scripture for what He was **unwaveringly running toward:**

Compare Luke 22:37 with Isaiah 53: 9-12.

Neglect not “the word of exhortation...in a few words”

Divine Exhortation To Run the Race Set before You:

Hebrews 13:22; 12:1-3 February 4th 2024

The author of Hebrews calls what he has written “the word of exhortation...in a few words” KJV This is his characterization of the Book: “exhortation”. This is more than a nudge to apply what has been said. This, pastor Mark Minnick says, “is more of an urgent push—about responding to the fact that Jesus, the Son of God, and Son of man—has *finished the the faith*, totally perfected “the Christian faith”.

Hebrews 1:1-10:18, is part #1 of the message of the book.

“**The faith**” refers to all that God requires of people for them to be reconciled to Him. All is done. No one--no priest, no preacher, no parent, no angel--can add or contribute any other thing to the saving work Christ has completely accomplished. Thus Christ “**sat down**” at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” **Christ finished the faith**

What then are we being **exhorted**, what are we being urgently **pushed**, to do? **Be faithful to the finished work.** Hebrews 10:19-13:25 is part 2 of the book. Hebrews 10:19-25 expounds in three summary headings what is meant:

First, 10:19 “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith....

Second, 10:23 “let us hold fast our confident future expectation” (“the profession of our faith without wavering...” KJV “...the confession of our hope without wavering...NASB).

Third, 10:24,25; “let us consider and provoke one another to love and good works.”

Doing these things is what it means to be faithful to the finished work. Doing these things **continually regardless of circumstances** is what it means to **run the race of Christian living with endurance.**

Draw near, hold on, let brotherly love continue, those are your instructions.

Proposition: You are so, so, so wise to let God specifically define for you what it means to be faithful to the finished work. Many will suffer eternal hell because they ignored what God specified as being faithful to the finished work.

I. Hebrews 10:26-31 , the *fourth warning passage*, is red flagging the consequences of erring regarding summary heading #1

10:19 “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith....”

A. Where is your “boldness”--that is, your *confident freedom of speech* before God?

1. Compare Hebrews 4:16. Does the law shut the mouths of all persons regarding self-righteousness: YES it does. See Romans 3:19.
2. But our great high priest has finished the faith for unrighteous helpless sinners like ourselves, so that we may come boldly to the throne of grace. See Hebrews 4:15,16. “Boldly” actually means freedom of speech.
3. Free to tell all about our temptations. Free from guilt based on our “once for all” sin offering:10:12-14. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? Free to take a fresh cleansing: 10:19-22.

B. Why are you so alive to so many things, but so little taken with Christ's redemptive work for you?

Note well the alarming future, **Hebrews 10:26-31**, for a person however outwardly religious, however long associated with believers, either raised in Christianity or otherwise connected to a Bible believing church—and yet has never truly drawn near to God on the basis of Christ's blood shedding.

Hampton roads swarms with persons with very little faithfulness—who have defined for themselves what acceptable faithfulness is. However their alarmingly loose ideas regarding faithfulness departs far from what God defines as acceptable faithfulness.

Hebrews 13:22 “The word of exhortation...in a few words” is referring to the whole book of Hebrews. God's definition of acceptable faithfulness is #1 grasping the finished work: 1:1-10:18 and #2 Being faithful to that finished work as explained in the three general headings found in 10:19-25, then expounded through 13:25.

II. Hebrews 10:32 expands the second summary heading.

10:23 “let us hold fast our confident future expectation” (“the profession of our faith **without wavering...**” KJV “...the confession of our hope without wavering...NASB).

A. You need what you used to have: 10:32 “recall the former days”

1. What was your beginning like? Everyone didn't have huge push back and persecution, but some did.
2. And some sacrificed to participate in order to get grounded in the faith. You made time. You planned. You got ready. You got tired for Jesus.
3. You overcame the frowns of family, neighbors, friction at work and so forth. Didn't you? Do you still?
4. Drifting is real: Hebrews 2:1 “neglect” means to drift. Quitting due to various disappointments is real too.

B. You need to remember the persons noted in Hebrews 11. They endured.

1. None of them were perfect. Far from it.
2. They were faithful, but didn't receive what they were waiting for.
3. They were looking for the completed faith—that the Messiah would bring. You have more revelation than they had. Push on.

C. Hebrews 13:1,2 ff. Set forth numerous ways we practice the third summary heading: **“let us consider and provoke one another to love and good works.”**10:24,25;