

TEXT- Hebrews 10:19-25

INTRO – A truck driver sat down to eat at an all-night restaurant. The waitress had just served him his meal when three guys riding Harley's showed up and swaggered into the diner. One grabbed the man's hamburger; another took a fistful of his French Fries; and the third picked up his coffee and began to drink it. The trucker responded with great patience. He calmly got up from the table, picked up his check, walked to the front of the restaurant, put his money on the cash register, and headed out the door. The waitress watched as the big truck drove off into the night. When she returned, one of the bikers said to her, "He wasn't much of a man, was he?" To which she replied, "He's not much of a truck driver either. He just ran over three motorcycles out in the parking lot." Sometimes we want to take matters into our own hands.

We no longer need to hold on to the old Jewish sacrificial system and dietary laws. We have no obligation to worry about keeping them. Instead, the writer tells us that Christ has provided a far better arrangement for us. Christ has fulfilled the law and gives us complete salvation and forgiveness.

Hebrews 10 calls us to live boldly. Far too often we live apologetically, almost ashamed and embarrassed that we are Christians.

Four commands in chapter 10 begin with "Let us" - I would encourage to you underline or circle these four commands.

Heb 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

I. Let Us Draw Near

A. He has created a new way through His blood vs 22

B. He invites us into His presence

C. We are to come confidently, with sincerity, with faith, with our sins cleansed

Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience

D. He will draw nigh to us

James 4:8 *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

II. Let Us Hold Fast

Heb 10:23 *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

Hold on to hope and our profession!

The first question we want to answer this morning is this:

- **What is our hope?** It says we are to hold on to the hope we "profess."

As Christians, HOPE is something we are to have. **But what IS hope?** Far too often we think of hope as the idea of a "blind desire", wishing for something to come true. But that is not the biblical idea of hope.

Hope is the confident expectation that what God has promised surely will come to pass. It is as good as a cashier's check, guaranteeing us that the money is in the bank. It is like signing the deed on a property, knowing that we have full rights to inherit and inhabit the property.

It is a sure thing. Having hope means that we live today like we are confidently assured that EVERYTHING God has promised us will come to pass.

- **What is our hope?** We are confident that WE ARE the house of God **Eph 3:16-17** *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

- **What is our hope?** We are confident that Jesus has provided salvation for us.

Heb 6:9-12 *But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

- **What is our hope?** We are confident that Jesus has given us a **better covenant**, than the OT sacrificial system. **Heb 7:18-25** *For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. 20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: 21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec;) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

But Jesus offers us a better plan: free forgiveness to any who come and receive him as Savior.

Heb 8:10 *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

Heb 8:12 *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

- **What is our hope?** Our hope is all that God had promised to the patriarchs, Noah, Abraham, Jacob - all of his promises of an eternal home, an eternal rest, of enjoying his presence forever –

Heb 11:39-40 *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

our HOPE is the CONFIDENT EXPECTATION that God will freely give us EVERYTHING He has PROMISED! We can count on it. It is as good as if we already received it. That is WHAT our hope is.

III. Let Us Help One Another

Heb 10:24-25 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

- **Why can we hope?** Because God is faithful! The term “faithful” literally means **He is worthy of our trust**. He can be counted on to fully discharge all the duties assigned to him. There is no question at all that he will come through. Verse 22 says we have “full assurance of faith”. God gives us every reason to believe. **Hebrews 6:18** reminds us it is **impossible for God to lie**. So our hope is based on the very character of God himself! There is NO WAY that our God would lie to us and tell us to hope for something that was not true!

In the gospels we find recorded the story of Jesus telling his disciples as they got into a boat at the lake that they would go to the other side. The waves grow fierce, and they wake Jesus, saying “don’t you care that we drown? Jesus rebukes the wind and waves and everything grows calm, and then Jesus asks them, “Where is your faith?”

He had already told them they were going to the other side, but they failed to believe in the power of his word.

Faith is a matter of the will and the heart. It is not an issue of FEELING. Rather faith is a choice. We choose to keep on believing, even when circumstances drive us to doubt.

Hab 3:17-18 *Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

Hope is a CHOICE - our choice to firmly believe in God, no matter what the circumstances look like.

- **What does hope do for us?** If we have this unswerving faith, what will it look like, what will it do for us?

- **Hope gives us security:**

Heb 6:19 *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

- **Hope gives us encouragement:**

Heb 6:17-18 *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:*

When we have hope, we have encouragement. We do not give up.

1 Th 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

What happens to a person who has no hope? The fall to pieces - they grieve and wail and fret and become filled with anxiety. But we who have hope, we who believe our God will keep his word, face every day encouraged, looking for the hand of God at work.

- **Hope gives us an inheritance:**

Heb 6:11-12 *And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

1Pe 1:3-9 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope

CONCL-

Let’s determine today that we will hold on to our hope, and start living like we really believe everything the bible says is true. Let’s be committed to living for Christ, looking forward to the day we will be set free from the very presence of sin itself as God gives us the inheritance he has prepared for us, a home in heaven.