

Sunday Morning, September 18, 2016
God's Four Ways to Keep Us On Track
Hebrews 10:19-39

I. God's Means for You to Persevere: Keep Drawing near 10:22

If you want to grow in the Christian life and persevere in faith to the end—you must have a sincere, daily prayer life.

- A. Prayer Is Your Privilege Heb. 10:18–22

- B. Prayer Is God's Means to Keep You from Falling Away
Matt. 26:41; Col. 4:2; Lk. 21:34f; Mk. 9:29; Heb. 5:7; 4:14–16

II. God's Means for You to Persevere: Keep Holding on 10:23

If you want to grow in the Christian life and persevere in faith to the end—you must determine to stay the course

- A. You Are to Hold Fast Without Wavering
Heb. 12:1; 12:7; 2:1; 3:14 (3:6; 4:14; 6:11); Heb. 10:32--39 cf Hab. 2:3f

- B. You Are to Hold Fast to Christ Heb. 6:19, 20

- C. You Can Hold Fast Because Your God Is Faithful

III. God's Means for You to Persevere: Keep Opening up 10:24

If you want to grow in the Christian life and persevere in faith to the end—you must have relationships of accountability

- A. You Are to Consider Heb. 3:1

- B. How to Encourage Each Other to Grow in Faith and Obedience
Heb. 3:12–13; Heb. 12:15

- C. Because Mutual Accountability Is God's Means to Protect You from Falling Away
 - 1. Mutual Accountability Is What a Covenant Relationship Requires

 - 2. Mutual Accountability Is What the Deceitfulness of Your Sin Requires

IV. God's Means for You to Persevere: Keep Gathering Together 10:25

If you want to grow in the Christian life and persevere in faith to the end—you must gather in public worship

- A. Your Obligation to Gather Together

- B. Your Obligation to Gather Together, to Encourage One Another—10:25
Eccl. 4:9--12

QUOTES:

“The central message of biblical Christianity is the possibility of men and women approaching God through the work of Christ.”
--Francis Schaeffer

"Prayer is God's appointed way for obtaining things, and the great secret of all lack in our experience, in our life and in our work is neglect of prayer."
--R. A. Torrey

“If I should neglect prayer but a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.”
--Martin Luther

“Confessing our sin to one another breaks the cycle of self-deception. A man who confesses his sins in the presence of a brother knows that he is no longer alone with himself; he experiences the presence of God in the reality of the other person.”
--Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

“It was one of the Wesleys, I think, who said that the New Testament knows nothing of solitary religion. We are forbidden to neglect the assembling of ourselves together. Christianity is already institutional in the earliest of its documents.”
--C. S. Lewis

“Eternal security is a community project. Not just prayer, not just worship, not just the sacraments, not just Bible reading, but daily exhortation from other believers is God's appointed means to enable you to hold your first confidence firm to the end.”
--John Piper

“No Christian can be an individualist. We *are* our brothers' keeper. We must give thought to how we can be of help to other believers. . . . Like climbers roped together on a steep mountain, like soldiers teamed together on a battlefield, we must keep track of one another. We must work together if we are to reach our objective safely.”
--Philipps

“At home in my own house there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.”
--Martin Luther

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.”
--Charles Spurgeon

“No one who professes to love Jesus can live in isolation from their brothers and sisters. To be called in Christ is to be called into covenant family.”
--Allister Beg

The godly ought by all means possible to exert themselves in the work of gathering together the Church on every side; for we are called by the Lord on this condition, that every one should afterwards strive to lead others to the truth, to restore the wandering to the right way, to extend a helping hand to the fallen, to win over those who are without. But if we ought to bestow so much labor on those who are yet alien to the flock of Christ, how much more diligence is required by exhorting the brethren whom God has already joined to us?
--John Calvin

“The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation. Sin wants to remain unknown. It shuns the light. In the darkness of the unexpressed it poisons the whole being of a person.”
--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from *Life Together*

“If a Christian is in the fellowship of confession with a brother, he will never be alone again, anywhere.”
--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from *Life Together*