

Intro: What are the possible responses to the Gospel? If they know the truth, they either go on to believe or they fall back into apostacy. This passage is for the person who believes.

XXIII. Accepting Christ

A. Draw Near in Faith - vs 19-21 - the first mark of a positive response to the Gospel

1. Therefore, brethren,
 - a. the author just spent 2.5 chapter showing
 - i. that the Old Covenant, sacrifices, and tabernacle were insufficient, temporary and replaced by the New
 - ii. why the New covenant and it's one sacrifice was better and necessary
 - b. the author uses brethren throughout the book referring to oth Jewish people
2. having boldness to enter the Holiest
 - a. The primary reason the old had to be replaced was it could not give access to God
 - b. b/c of Christ and the New covenant, we not only have access, but with boldness
 - i. *parrhesia* - all out-spokenness, frankness, bluntness, publicity; assurance bold (-ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence, - Eph 3:12; Heb 4:16
 - ii. *Eisodos* - an entrance, coming, enter(-ing) in (to). - Ro 5:2; ; Eph 2:18
3. by the blood of Jesus,
 - a. the primary basis upon which we have access to God “the blood of Jesus”
 - b. by a new and living way - Jo 10:9; 14:6;
 - i. *prospatos* - previously (recently) slain (fresh), lately made:--new.
 - used only here
 - original meaning “freshly slaughtered “
 - ii. Through His resurrection and our being “in Him”
 - Ro 1:4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
 - Ro 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.
 - Ro 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
 - iii. which He consecrated for us,
 - through the veil, - Mt 27:51; Mr 15:38; Lu 23:45
 - that is, His flesh,
4. having a High Priest over the house of God,
 - a. Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
 - b. 1Ti 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

B. Draw Near Clean - vs 22

1. The condition of the Heart
 - a. *alethinous* - truthful:--true, describing something in terms of its organic connection (authentic unity) to what is true in light of its source or origin, conveys the integrity of what is true, down to its inner make-up

b. *plerophoria* - entire confidence:--(full) assurance.

2. Positional Satisfaction

a. what the old couldn't do

i. Heb 9:9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience

ii. Heb 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

b. having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience - Eze 36:25;

i. Heb 9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

ii. No self accusations once dealt with in faith - 1 Jo 1:9; **3:21**

3. Practical Satisfaction

a. and our bodies washed with pure water. - 2Co 7:1;

i. not referring to water baptism

ii. Deals with the Spirit changing our lives

iii. Tit 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

b. the 2 are inseparable

i. if there is salvation, baptized "in Christ" - 1Co 12:13

- the person becomes identified with Christ

- their identity before God is changed

ii. the saved person will change

- God doing it

-Php 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

-1Th 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

- our part

-Ro 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

-2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. -Eph 4:22-24; Phil 2:12-13; Col 3; Jas 1

C. Three Requirements of Faith

1. Felt Need

a. Conviction of the Spirit - Jo 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

i. *elegcho* - to confute, admonish:--convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.

ii. to convince by solid, compelling evidence which especially exposes what is wrong or right, is preeminently used of the Holy Spirit producing conviction in the heart.

- b. The example of Saul
 - i. when Saul was persecuting the church,
 - he had a great need for Christ, but did not have a felt need
 - He was thoroughly convinced he was doing the will of God
 - ii. when Saul was confronted dramatically by the Lord,
 - he came to know and feel his need
 - Though not completely understood
- c. what the felt need might be
 - i. need for purpose in life
 - ii. need for love
 - iii. Need for forgiveness
- d. felt need doesn't require theological understanding only a sincere heart
 - i. Abraham - Ge 15:6
 - ii. Those that came to Jesus for healing
- e. good theological understanding does not mean there will be a felt need

2. Content

- a. salvation does not require full theological understanding, but does require the Gospel truth
 - i. 1 Co 15:1-5; Ro 1:16
 - ii. The concept of blind faith is unbiblical
- b. salvation requires one's understanding of being lost in sin, and one's need for the Lord Jesus Christ
- c. the author's presentation of the old covenant, sacrifices, tabernacle as being insufficient was to help them understand their need
- d. the author's presentation of the New Covenant, and Christ's sacrifice replacing the old was to show God's provision

3. Commitment

- a. the Climax of faith is putting trust in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ
- b. Ro 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - i. Ac 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
 - ii. 1Co 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. 1Jo 4:2-3 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

D. Hold Fast in Hope - vs 23

- 1. Second mark of a positive response to the Gospel
 - a. *elpis* - (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation or confidence:--faith, hope,
 - b. here it is translated faith, a person who genuinely trusts, can't help but to be hopeful
- 2. one who is hopeful will hold fast, or continue
 - a. *katecho* - to hold down (fast), have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, make

toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold.

i. Holding fast does not keep one saved

ii. One who loses hope or becomes discouraged is believing the wrong things, it is possible for a believer, the need for true fellowship and encouragement

iii. The human side of eternal security - Heb 4:14;

- Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

- Jo 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

b. *homologia* - acknowledgment:--con- (pro-)fession, professed - Ro 10:9

c. without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

i. 2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

ii. 1Th 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

E. Encourage in Love - vs 24-25

1. The third mark of a positive response to the gospel

a. the expression of love here is fellowship

i. consider - *katanoeo* - to observe fully:--behold, consider, discover, perceive.

ii. Provoke - *paroxusmos* - incitement (to good), or dispute (in anger):--contention, provoke unto.

- love (toward God and others)

- spirit empowered living (good works)

iii. Encourage - *parakaleo* - to call near, invite, invoke (by imploration, hortation or consolation):--beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.

iv. Assemble - *episunagoge* - a complete collection; especially a Christian meeting (for worship):--assembling (gathering) together.

b. the Opposite

i. forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,

- *egkatalipo* - to leave behind in some place, (in a good sense) let remain over, or **(in a bad sense) to desert:--forsake, leave.**

- not being absent on Sunday PM or Wednesday service

ii. as is the manner of some, - Jude 1:19

- some couldn't face the persecution of being identified with Christ and returned to Judaism

- 1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

c. and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

i. fellowship love should be shown more and more

ii. the Day approaching.

- could be referring to the upcoming destruction of the temple

- more likely refers to the great and terrible day of the Lord