
The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)

A Call To Action Hebrews 10:19-25 (Part 3)

I. Our Confidence to Approach God (10:19-21)

First, in Hebrews 10:19-21, we saw that in light of the superiority of Christ we have confidence to approach God. In summary I would say it this way – in light the knowledge of what Christ has done to secure our salvation, by appeasing the wrath of God as well as fulfilling the law of God for us, we have confidence that in Christ we have a right relationship with the living God. This is wonderful since in my nearly 40 year experience I know I always fall short of God’s glory, but in Christ, I have been brought near the glory.

II. Our Communion with God (10:22)

Second, in Hebrews 10:22, as a result of this confidence we have, we saw that in light of superiority of Christ we have true, deep abiding communion or intimacy with God. We can draw near – come close to God with assurance that He loves us, hears us and cares for us. Tonight we will be looking at Psalm 17, a Psalm of David, and in a nutshell this psalm reveals to us David’s communion with God as he drew near to Him.

III. Our Confession of God (10:23)

This brings us to the third of our four considerations. We see it there in Hebrews 10:23 –

“let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...”

Here we see that in light of the confidence we have in the superiority of Jesus Christ, we have our confession of God. Now, please bear with me as I go back and pick up something that I have not pointed out. If you look at Hebrews 10:22-25 carefully, you will note that there are three ***“let us”*** statements. These are exhortations, calls to action. These are the answers to the question, “Since Christ is superior, better and above all others and all things, so what?” What are we to do about it? What can we do about it? Beloved, these three ***“let us”*** clauses are a call to community. We have these ***“let us”*** clauses here to remind us of our corporate responsibility to gather so that we might draw near to God; that we might hold fast our confession and that we might consider one another.

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A. A Confession to Grasp (10:23a)

Now, back to this second exhortation, **“let us hold fast our confession of hope..”** What is involved in this? Apart from what we have already considered about the “let us” – notice first the verb. We are corporately called to **“hold fast”** to something. The Greek word for hold fast literally means “to hold down.” The idea here is *to hold on tightly, to seize, to keep firm hold, to retain, to cling, to maintain full possession*. We might say, “Don’t let go!” To **“hold fast”** can speak figuratively of embracing something whole-heartedly. If I love my wife, I will **“hold fast”** to her – I will whole-heartedly embrace her as my God-given helpmate. It would do us well to note that **“hold fast”** is a present active verb, meaning we are to hold fast now and continue to hold fast.

But what are we, as a church, to hold fast to? Our text says, **“our confession”** - our *homologian* in the Greek – homo – meaning same and *logian* (from logos) meaning word. Our confession is our keeping and speaking the same word. We are called, as a body, to nurture and cultivate (hold fast) the same word or be like-worded.

What are we to be like-worded about? Moving on in our text we see we are to be like-worded in **“our hope”**. It is important to see that this “hope” is not something that all people have. It is “our” hope – it belongs to those who have embraced the life, death, resurrection and teachings of Jesus in their lives. It is “our” hope – meaning it is not simply the hope of some individuals but rather it is the one true hope of the entire Church.

So we must now ask, what is this hope? Biblical hope is not a wish, rather, the word really speaks of a confident expectation. The Christian’s hope is not some fanciful wish that has little basis in reality – rather the Christian’s hope is simply an unrealized reality – my hope is heaven – I have not yet realized it, but it is my sure destination based upon the faithful promise of God.

Hope is a possession. In scriptural terms, hope is the combination and culmination of faith, of belief, of trust in the work and promises of Jesus Christ. This hope is nothing but what the Bible calls glorification – of being finally and fully transformed from this body of death and sin into a body of immortality and glory. Let us press on together in being conformed to Christ – this is our hope – this is our glorification.

B. A Confession to Guard (10:23b)

Getting back to our text, we see what I call a qualifier. We are to **“hold fast the confession of our hope”** – **“without wavering.”** There is the qualifier. It is like the fine print of a contract giving us the details of what this true

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confession of our hope is to look like. And what is it to look like? It is to be substantially firm. The two words “without wavering” is really just one word in the Greek – “*aklinee*” and literally means “no lean, slant or slope.” There is to be a complete, whole-hearted, fully-devoted spirit among those who “hold fast our confession.” It is easy not to be fully sold on things in this world. I am not fully sold on dentistry, but I have it done. I am not fully sold on the concept of “global warming” – but have and will change the types of coolants used in my car and home. It is easy to just go along with the crowd – not really convinced, ready to go another direction if something seemingly better comes around. Such attitudes are incompatible with genuine Christianity. Our confession is one of hope, not one of despair. It is a confession of excellence and glory, not mediocrity and vanity.

The call of our pastoral author here is that our confession would be without any bowing down to other ideas, without flighting away at times of difficulty, without wearing down, giving out or giving up. Our confession of hope is that which alone counters such wavering. Turn to 1 Thessalonians 5 where we see an example of this. Listen to verse 14 –

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

With what are to admonish, encourage, help such persons? Let us go back up to verses 9-11 and see –

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

These verses reveal our hope, our expectation, that in Christ, the wrath of God is appeased and that in Christ we expect to “live together with Him” – to be in the presence of God. This is our confession of hope.

C. A Confession Guaranteed (10:23c)

Let us finally then consider the last phrase of Hebrews 10:23. Such a statement of confidence – “***for He who promised is faithful.***” This verse and passage is filled with need redundancies. We are called to “hold fast” – the idea of which precludes any wavering, yet we read as well, “without wavering.” Now

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we read of the faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promises, yet in 10:19, God's faithfulness in the work and person of Christ forms the basis of the believer's confidence. The point is, if we truly see the superiority of Christ, it is to translate into visible action on the part of the believer as he first draws near to God and then seeks to involve himself in a community of the faithful who confess the hope of Christ. When our text says, "**for He who promised is faithful**" – this is not so much a reminder of who God is – for He is faithful – but rather is the reason for our confidence, the reason why we believe, the reason why we act. For just as God, who promised reconciliation with Him through Jesus, communion with Him through Jesus and eternal life with Him through Jesus – just as He who promised these things has been, is and will be demonstrably faithful – let us faithfully and unswervingly hold fast, cling hard, not let go of this confession of our hope.

Let me ask you – what is the level of your involvement with the fellowship of believers? Are you there to be like-worded, to confess with others the hope of Jesus Christ?

Have you ever made a confession of your hope in Christ in the assembly of the believers?

IV. Our Consideration of one another (10:24-25)

A. A Call to See

"...and let us consider..."

B. A Call to Stir

"...how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds..."

C. A Call to Seek

"...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some..."

D. A Call to Support

"...but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

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