

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD

13 March 2022

Chapter 10:19-39

Verse of the Day:

*19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ...
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith
(Hebrews 10:19 & 22a)*

Review: Who, What, When, Where, & Why?

What's Going On Here

Life can be a real hassle! Anxiety, pressure, and stress are as common as thistles and dandelions. As we go through life attempting to cope with the rock-hard realities of responsibility and accountability, we need effective help to live a Christian life in spite of the difficulties that make us feel like giving up the struggle. We will find that kind of help in this session. Some of the message will pinch like a too-tight shoe after a couple hours of walking. Some of it will shock us with the high voltage of reality. Most of it will encourage us to “hang in there!” None of it will allow us to opt out of the life God wants His creatures to live. We’ll also find that we have a responsibility not only for ourselves but also for our fellow strugglers in the Christian faith. God doesn’t allow a selfish outlook on life. He continually gathers us into a community where we face others who are walking the highway of the called-out life. Sometimes He allows us to suffer hardships. Sometimes we observe others in hardships that range from mild to severe. Always, God reminds us that He is in control, that He is indeed acting in love for the crowning glory of His creation—*us!* Our God, who is superior to all creatures, holds His loving hands under us and gives us the strength to endure. Jesus Christ is in heaven, where He continues to give us the assurance we need. He reminds us that we truly are His own. He gives the power so that we can endure all hardship. As you study this lesson and apply it to your life, rely on the power of Jesus so that you will “hang in there!”¹



The Full Assurance of Faith

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good

v22: perfect passives; Sprinkled c.f. (Hebrews 9:12–14); washed (c.f. John 13:8–10)

v22-24: note – faith, hope, & love (c.f. 1 Cor 13:13)

v19-22: How have you (specifically) been prepared to enter the Most Holy Place (c.f. Galatians 3:26–29 & Ephesians 5:25–27)?

v23: What enables us to “hold fast the confession of our hope?”

¹ Kramin, Howard (1997). *God's Word for Today: Hebrews* (p. 73-74). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only.

works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. ³⁷ For,

“Yet a little while,
and the coming one will
come and will not delay;

³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by
faith,

and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

v25: c.f. 3rd Commandment & Meaning (LSB 321)

v25: When we see the “Day drawing near,” what should that motivate us to do?

v26-27: What is the punishment for continually sinning deliberately? Why do you think such a harsh punishment is pronounced (c.f. Mark 3:28–29)?

v29: When we deliberately continue to sin, what are we doing to Christ and to the gracious work of the Holy Spirit?

v26-31: If the punishment for any and all sins is eternal death why does the author draw a distinction in these verses between deliberate willful sin and unintentional sin?

v32: struggle: *athlesis* – contest, challenge; athletic struggle

v35: What is the great reward of Christian confidence? What are some of the other benefits?

v32-36: At times we ask the question “why?” when events seem to turn against us. We may wonder, “Why did God do this to me? to us? to our family? to our church?” In light of these verses, how can you deal with those “why” questions?

Homework: Consider v24-25. What are some ways you, specifically, can encourage your fellow Christians to be more involved in Christian activities and in worship?