

Persevere by Remembering 2021-03-14

Hebrews 10:32-36

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.

Back to the future....how past affects future.

- Enduring in faith sometimes requires looking back and to the future.

To persevere: look back at what saved from. Hebrews 10:26-31

- specific sin: conscious, deliberate, persistent rejection of Jesus Christ ...Gospel.
 - Hear/understand Gospel, mental assent to it, walk away forever.
 - truly saved remain saved. truly apostate go out, remain out.

received full knowledge of gospel yet reject Jesus, consequences severe.

- Judged in proportion to amount of truth available to us. Mark 3:28-30
 - 1 thing not know anything, another conclude “no” when have all evidence.
 - God less tolerant sin today because no excuse like Old Covenant. Acts 17:30
 - Breaking law, but more so trampling love gift of God as worthless.
- Where law condemns God’s grace forgives through Jesus Christ....Gospel

"God's grace is His active favor bestowing the greatest gift upon those who have deserved the greatest punishment."

William Hendricksen

Moving forward in faith sometimes requires looking back at what saved from and recalling early days as new Christian. Hebrew 10:32-34a, John 15:20

- Remembering past faithfulness demo genuine faith and encourages persevere.
 - remember joy, hunger for Word/fellowship, bold in share Gospel.

Stood firm when rejected friends/family for faith and associate with Christians.

- Hardships/suffering/rejection part of normal Christian life.
 - Times of trial sift true Christians from false or fair-weather Christians.

concerned for others in need: volunteered socially and served in ministry.

- Greatest need is salvation from coming judgment.

willingly, joyfully gave your earthly treasure.... free from materialism

- Here they joyfully accepted confiscation of property. Hebrews 10:34-36
 - Plundered: official act of government or unofficial act of violence.

Willingly suffered loss of worldly goods, because looking to future.

- Were confident had better, more abiding possession lasted beyond death.
 - “better”, abiding possession not thing but person and great salvation.
- Know God able/faithful fulfill all His promises to you in Jesus Christ
 - Confidence not from what you do but from what Jesus did/doing for you..
 - Because Jesus lives in us, we can endure to end.

Hold fast, live life by faith and trust God even when don't understand why things are happening the way they are.

- Persevering in faith sometimes requires looking back & looking to future.
 - Look back: what saved from and early days as new Christian. Revelation 2:2-5
 - Look to future and remember how wonderful going to be.
 - Look ahead to Hebrews 11: definition of faith and examples of what it looks like to persevere in faith and endure in hard times.