



# Church of the Resurrection

Date: Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Theme: "Endure"

#13 in the Series on the Book of Hebrews

1. Viva les différences!
2. Enduring obedience (10:26-31)
  - a. The sister passage to this one is Heb. 6:4-6, *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."*
    - i. *"tasted the heavenly gift"*
    - ii. *"partakers of the Holy Spirit"*
    - iii. *"renew them again to repentance"*
    - iv. *"crucify again"*
    - v. Heb. 10:29, *"...who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing..."*
    - vi. Rom. 11:19-22, *"You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off." (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-12)*
      1. Lessons from grafting. Is. 53:5, *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." In. 19:40, "Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury."*
  - b. If after we are converted and become true Christians we should apostatize, it would be impossible to be recovered again, for there would be no other sacrifice for sin; no way by which we could be saved. It is not to be construed here strictly, or metaphysically, for all sin is voluntary, or is committed willingly, but must refer to a deliberate act, where a man means to abandon his religion, and to turn away from God. If it were to be taken with metaphysical exactness, it would demonstrate that every Christian who ever does anything wrong, no matter how small, would be lost. (cf. Rom. 7 which discusses the sin of Christians.)
    - i. Matthew Henry, *"The sin here mentioned is a total and final apostasy, when men with a full and fixed will and resolution despise and reject Christ, the only Saviour, - despise and resist the Spirit, the only sanctifier, - and despise and renounce the gospel, the only way of salvation, and the words of eternal life; and all this after they have known, owned, and professed, the Christian religion, and continue to do so obstinately and maliciously. This is the great transgression."*
  - c. A distinction is made between categories of sins by the writer of Hebrews and means to speak of a decided and deliberate purpose to break away from the restraints and obligations of the Christian religion.
    - i. Those of oversight, inadvertence, or ignorance, (cf. Lev. 4:2, Lev. 4:13, Lev. 4:22, Lev. 4:27, Lev. 5:15, Num. 15:24, Num. 15:27-29, Acts 3:17 and Acts 17:30).

- ii. Those of presumption, sins that are deliberately and intentionally committed. (cf. Ex. 21:14, Num. 15:30, Deut. 17:12, Ps. 19:13, and Acts 5:1-11) Num. 15:30-31, *"But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him."*
- d. If rejection of Moses' laws was bad, how much worse will it be for someone who rejects the blood and redemption of the Son of God?
  - i. One of the big exhortations to the early Church was to "discern" the body of Christ within the Eucharist. To eat without recognizing or acknowledging the "body" of Christ was to eat judgment upon one self. 1 Cor. 11:28-31, *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."* Mt. 7:3-5, *"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*
    - 1. Note that the exhortation is given so that we judge ourselves in order to avoid judgment.
- e. NT rejection examples
  - i. Ananias and Sapphira who lied to the Apostles and the Holy Spirit; (cf. Acts. 5:1-11)
  - ii. Hymenaeus and Alexander from Ephesus; 1 Tim. 1:19-20, *"having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme."*
- f. From an eternal point of view, perhaps they were never of us. (cf. Mt. 7:23, 1 Jn. 2:19)
- g. Watch out for the rocks and to avoid shipwreck, throw out the anchor.
  - i. There are heresies which cast us upon the rocks: love of money, legalism, reliance upon extra-biblical sources, etc. (cf. Phil. 3:18-19, 2Tim. 3:1-6, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 2 Pet. 2:12-22, Jude 1:10-13, 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 1 Cor. 11:19, Gal. 1:6-8, Gal. 5:4, 2 Tim. 4:4, Heb. 6:4-6, and 1 Jn. 2:18-19)
  - ii. There is hope which is an anchor to our soul. (cf. Heb. 6:19)
- 3. Enduring afflictions (10:32-35)
  - a. We are going to be made a spectacle of by reproaches and tribulations or else we will be companions of those so treated. There will be social and peer pressure upon us to conform.
  - i. The example of "foolish" Paul in chains. 1 Cor. 4:9-10, *"For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!"*
    - 1. Paul was using this line of argument to exhort the Corinthians to not take pride in the high status and comforts in life, and to "come down" and be a fool with him. Why is it that those who humbly serve the Kingdom should be looked down upon those whom they serve?
    - 2. *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."* [Jim Elliot]
    - 3. Eph. 4:16, *"...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

- b. Worldwide persecution of Christians today. There needs to be a greater “*companionship*” with those who are under tribulation. It is reported that 45 million Christians have been martyred in the last century alone. What should compassion look like today?
  - c. Joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.
    - i. 1 Cor. 6:7, “*Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?*”
    - ii. 2 Cor. 12:10, “*Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”
  - d. Confidence [also *great boldness*] has a great reward. There may be an allusion here to the disgrace which was attached to the act of a warrior if he cast away his shield. Among the Greeks this was a crime which was punishable with death. Among the ancient Germans to lose the shield in battle was regarded as the deepest dishonor, and that those who were guilty of it were not allowed to be present at the sacrifices or in the assembly of the people.
    - i. Acts 4:29, 31, “*...Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word... And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*”
4. Enduring faith (10:36-39)
- a. Persevere through the “*doing*” of God’s will so that we may receive the promise. The Christian's present conflict may be sharp, but will be soon over. Those who have been kept faithful in great trials for the time past, have reason to hope for the same grace to help them still to live by faith, till they receive the end of their faith and patience, even the salvation of their souls.
    - i. Eph. 6:13, “*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*”
  - b. Jesus is coming and He is not tarrying.
    - i. James 5:7-9, “*Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!*”
    - ii. Rev. 9:15, “*So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.*”
    - iii. Rev. 22:20, “*He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming quickly.**” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*”
  - c. God takes no pleasure in anyone who draws back... to perdition. God never is pleased with the formal profession and outward duties and services of such as do not persevere; but he beholds them with great displeasure.
  - d. Must believe to the saving of the soul.
  - e. Through the Eucharist meal we declare His death, resurrection, His enduring life and His mission. 1 Cor. 11:23-26, “*that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “**Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*”