

Finish the Course!

Hebrews 10:32-39

November 11, 2007

Summary: True faith perseveres to the end. The writer of Hebrews encourages believers to persevere in their Christian faith, through obedience while facing persecution and adversity. The first encouragement is to remember how God has given us victory over the trials of the past. Second, we are to reclaim our reward, as we not only know the faith, but live the faith to the end, with endurance.

1. A. What is the command given to these believers in the early days of the church, and what made this command necessary? Hebrews 10:32
 - B. In the syntax of the original, the imperative “**remember**” is put first, making it the greatest emphasis. What was so important to be remembered, and how was this to be a great help in time of need? II Timothy 1:6-8, 1:16-18, Hebrews 10:33-34
 - C. “Remember the former days...being enlightened, you endured... sufferings.” Think back as to how the Lord has given you victory in the past. Consider His faithfulness and what He has helped you to overcome. Should that not give us great encouragement for what we are facing today? Philippians 4:4-13, Hebrews 12:2-3, I John 4:4

2. A. What further instructions follow, and why were they given? Hebrews 10:35-36
 - B. These dear people had confidence and a boldness in God – they were not to toss this out, because a “great reward” was promised! But times were so hard on them – how were they to continue? II Corinthians 3:4-5, II Timothy 4:5-8, Hebrews 10:36-37, Revelation 2:10,
 - C. The idea here is, “Don’t let a very little time steal away that huge and eternal reward.” We too, must “keep on keeping on,” because we are almost there. Do you know missionaries who are proven, with a confident boldness in God, but are suffering hard times? What are some practical ways we can encourage them? Philippians 1:3-11, 4:14-20, III John 1:14

3. A. What kind of faith does the writer of Hebrews appeal for his audience to demonstrate? Hebrews 10:38-39
 - B. The point made is very clear. **True faith perseveres**. What additional support can we find regarding the perseverance of authentic faith? John 10:27-29, Philippians 1:6, I John 2:18-19, 5:4
 - C. Is the Lord Jesus Christ the stability of your times? In what fashion are you building yourself up in your most holy faith? Isaiah 33:6, Hebrews 12:1-2, Jude 1:20-21, 24-25