

Responding to the Gospel - (Part 2)

Text: Hebrews 10:23-25

Date: 1-5-25

I. **The Response of Confessing our Faith Based on God's Faithfulness (Heb. 10:23). The reaction of hope.**

hold fast: “. . . it signifies never letting up even slightly in our fight for the faith, but continuing unwaveringly, ever steadfast in the Lord's battles” (Sumner 256).

Those who have faith in Jesus Christ genuinely have hope.

Because Jesus Christ has inaugurated a new and living way for the believers, we can boldly and confidently place our hope in that finished work, knowing also that His present work continues and that He will secure our final salvation in the future.

The basis for our persevering hope is in our faithful God.

God is reliable and dependable because His character, affections, and allegiance are based in Himself.

Hope in the spiritual realm is rooted in the surety of what is to come. Hope is not assumption or just something longed for. Hope responds in belief and expectation with the foundation of Christ's finished work brought to future fruition.

Trust in people and they will let you down. Trust in your money and you may well lose it. Trust in yourself and you will soon be disappointed. Trust in God: He will never let you down!

When the world is crashing, we hold on to our Hope! When the enemy is attacking, we remind ourselves of our confession. When the enemies seem to have an upper hand, we remind ourselves that we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ and He alone has removed our sins and forgiven us. He has secured all the promises based on Who He is and what He has done!

The writer implores us to keep going forward in hope instead of leaning back into the old covenant and wavering, trusting that God will fulfill all His promises through Jesus Christ.

II. **The Response of Good Works based on the Coming of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:24-25). The reaction of love.**

We are to carefully consider to stimulate our brothers and sisters to love and living rightly.

We are an army in a spiritual battle who should desire to fight alongside each other and not fight each other.

The way that the church and the outside world knows that we are Christians is how we manifest the fruit of the Spirit. Love passionately, tenderly, caringly, fervently, and constantly. A friend must show himself friendly. If you want to be loved, start loving others. Love the unlovely ones. Love the difficult ones. Love the kind ones. Love the “enemies”.

Application/good works: How can we put this into practice?

- Be busy but not a busybody.
- Serve others - serve in lowly ways
- Write (or text) an encouraging note
- Pray for others
- Praise others
- Help someone in need
- Fellowship with others

The author clearly defines several ways that we can love one another and provoke to good works:

• **Negatively: Do not forsake the assembling together**

This isn't just missing church. This isn't just missing fellowship time. This isn't just laziness or missed attendance. This is missing out on the deep relationship with the body of Christ. This is abandoning worship towards God. This is deserting the time spent in quality hours and minutes blessing and adoring our Savior. Jesus Christ expects, demands, and is worthy to receive this time together.

- **Positively: Exhort *one another*.** The word *exhort* (Greek: *parakaleo*) means *to encourage, to implore, or "to earnestly support or encourage a response or action"*.¹

The best way for a believer to hold fast and trust God is to do it alongside other believers.

What are you doing with your time? Are you providing encouragement to others? Are you with the body as often as possible? Are you just coming to church to fill a chair, or are you coming to love and exhort others? Are you coming to be blessed or are you being a blessing? Are you just attending or are you putting in actions that would build this body and, most importantly, exalt Jesus Christ? Christ never abandoned us in our greatest need, so it would do us well to never abandon Him in what He desires of His body. What do you think Christ will say when you offer excuses to Him about why you missed the assembling together?

¹ Brannan, R., ed. (2020). In [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#). Lexham Press.