

Encouragement to Persevere

Text: Hebrews 10:32-35

Date: 2-16-25

I. Remember the suffering (Heb. 10:32-33). Count your past blessings as God faithfully cared for you in the trials of your life.

In simple words, the writer is encouraging these believers to remember the endurance and steadfastness that they exhibited through the former trials. Why? So that they don't give up now and go back to their old way of life.

Those who chose to stick it out and continue to follow Christ endured significant repercussions.

- **Great fight of afflictions:** This recalls the *challenges* and *struggles* the believers had with *suffering* and *distress due to adversity*.
- **Publically exposed to reproach and affliction**
- **Shared in the suffering of other people**

They had been publically disgraced, mocked at; they had shared in the sufferings of their brothers and sisters, and yet they had held their ground. To stand up for Christ meant humiliation and persecution. Yet, during these times they had fought the good fight, kept the faith, and pressed forward. Their commitment to Jesus Christ stayed strong. The author desires to recall how they had done these things. Now was not the time to give up and go back.

II. Remember your rewards (Heb. 10:34-35). Consider your future premiums as God faithfully supplies your lasting inheritance!

Those who follow Christ will receive rewards and there is nothing wrong with using it as motivation for right living.

This isn't saying we live for God for just rewards. This means we choose to live holy, set apart lives because we will be judged on those accounts.

We run our race with endurance knowing the rewards that will be the result. The beatitudes encourage rewards. God is a rewarder, so it is right to have those rewards as a legitimate motivation (Heb. 11:6).

Randy Alcorn says this: "Here's what I think we should really want to get when we stand before our Jesus: the pleasure of hearing Him say "Well done" and the pleasure of seeing the look of approval on His face, as He says "Enter into the joy of your Lord." To know that by His grace, we who deserve Hell have somehow (oh, what a great mystery!) made God happy and now we will love and serve Him forever in a world without sin and curse and death...could it get any better than that?"

I Pet. 1:3-4: "3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

These people knew their treasures were laid up in heaven. Previously, they had lived in this manner whereby they knew their abiding joy was not in earthly possessions but heavenly ownership. Their rewards were much greater and lasted much longer than anything of this world. In the midst of their trials and tribulations, they had come forth as gold. They knew it had been worth it all.

Do not toss this boldness aside! Why? Because you have a great reward coming! Live with endurance and steadfastness and Jesus Christ will reward you. He has promised to execute them, and He will always be faithful in His word to you. Your great payment is coming. Don't quit. Don't go back. Don't run from Jesus. Run to Jesus.

Conclusion

- **Rewards are not the prime motivation to serve Christ, but they are a spoke in the wheel of obedience and blessing.**
- **Count your blessings!** You may have had rough times in the past and even now struggles are your lot. But, remember how God has been faithful to provide for you in your dry and weak times.
- **Go forward and not backward.**