

# 25

## THE CURE FOR APOSTASY

*Hebrews 10:32-39*

### Introduction: Don't Quit!

#### I. Look Back: Remember How God Has Worked in Your Life So Far

- A. Key Principle: It's Encouraging to Remember Your "former days" as a Believer
  - o "After you were enlightened" refers to when you first came to faith (v.32)
  - o In Scripture, God is always pointing his people back
    - "You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen!" (Rev 2:4-5)
    - "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6)
- B. Looking Back Can Provide Specific Evidence that Christ is Really in Your Life
  - o Key Evidence: Enduring suffering
    - Apostates usually leave when they endure suffering
    - The audience of the letter "endured a hard struggle with sufferings. . . exposed to reproach and affliction" (v.32-33)
    - Refers to the ridicule received for converting to Christianity
  - o Key Evidence: Loving others
    - "If we love one another, God abides in us" (1 John 4:12)
    - Audience was "partners" (v.33) with those who were mistreated
    - They had "compassion on those in prison" (v.34)
  - o Key Evidence: Joyful Heart
    - "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace" (Gal 5:22)
    - They "joyfully accepted the plundering of your property" (v.34)
    - How? Because "you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one" (v.34)



C. Implication: Don't Throw it All Away!

- o By looking to the past, the author can say "Therefore do not throw away your confidence" (v.35)
- o You've come so far, don't quit now!

## II. Look Forward: Ponder the Great Blessings that Await You

A. Realize that "You have need of endurance" (v.36)

- o The Christian life is not a sprint—it's a marathon. Just focus on finishing!
- o The mark of the believer is not perfection, but perseverance.

B. What are Some Specific Blessings to Look Forward to?

- o Christians look forward to a "great reward" (v.35)
  - We will "receive what is promised" (v.36). What are the things promised to us?
  - Why do we not talk much about rewards? How would it affect our lives if we mediated more on the rewards of heaven?
- o Christians look forward to the second coming (v.37)
  - Author cites Habakkuk 2:3-4 and applies it to Christ!

C. How Can We Receive These Blessings?

- o Negative: Don't Shrink Back (v.38-39)
  - To "shrink back" is to give up and abandon Christ
  - This is opposite of the "confidence" (v.35) we should have in Christ
- o Positive: Walk by Faith (v.38-39)
  - This means to trust God even when we don't yet see our reward; even when it is hard and doesn't make sense
  - This sets the stage for chapter 11: the Hall of Faith!



## Discussion Groups

1. When you look back to your early years as a believer, what is encouraging to you? Share some of those things with the group. How does remembering these things help you today?

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2. Why is it so important to remember that endurance and perseverance are the keys to the Christian life? How should that affect you today?

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3. How does this passage motivate you to focus more on the rewards that await us? How would it be different in your life to be motivated by joy of heaven rather than being motivated only by fear of judgment?

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