

THE SERIOUSNESS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Hebrews 10:19-39

INTRODUCTION:

- A. To achieve success, some professions, require extreme care and vigilant attention to detail and following proper procedures:
 - 1. Power line worker: a hazard to himself.
 - 2. Surgeon: a hazard to his patient.
 - 3. Airplane mechanic: hazard to passengers & people on ground.
- B. All these professions very serious: require extreme care, attention to detail, following proper procedures; but not near as serious as the most important profession of all: being a Christian (Eph 4:1 KJV "vocation").
- C. Have become indifferent and unconcerned in our attitudes and approach to our "profession" Heb 4:14
- D. Letter to Hebrews shows need to take profession seriously - look at some passages showing seriousness of being a Christian.
- F. To take being a Christian as seriously as we need to, we must...

DISCUSSION:

I. REMEMBER WHO GOD IS

- A. Marvel at His great power Heb 11:3; Psa 33:6; 19:1
- B. He is the Creator Gen 1:1
- C. Be humbled that we are the pinnacle of His creation Gen 1:26-27

II. CONSIDER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US

- A. He has spoken to us Heb 1:1-2
 - 1. We know God exists by His creation Rom 1:20
 - 2. But, cannot know His will without His revelation 1Cor 2:9-10
- B. He has forgiven our sins Heb 1:3
- C. He has given us a great calling Heb 3:1
- D. He provides us with great help in our "profession" Heb 4:15-16

III. REALIZE WE HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

- A. We must pay close attention to Him! Heb 2:1-4 "Drifting" is a real and constant danger! No escape if we fail to take it seriously!
- B. So, we must ever be alert!
 - 1. Salvation conditional Heb 3:6,14 Backsliding easy Heb 3:12
 - 2. Won't make it unless obedient Heb 3:18,19 cf. Heb 5:9
 - 3. Only make it by giving "diligence" (to hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself, endeavor) Heb 11:6; 4:9,11

IV. LEARN THE LESSONS TAUGHT IN HEBREWS 10

- A. Hebrews appears complex, but just has a repetitive theme
 - 1. Exposition & argument followed by exhortation & encouragement.
 - 2. Christ is better, therefore, don't fall away!
- B. Bulk of chapter 10 is warning, exhortation & encouragement to faithfulness that follows Paul's exposition and argument begun in Heb 7:1. The main points of the exposition and argument are:
 - 1. Superior High Priesthood of Christ e.g., Heb 7:26-28; 8:1-2
 - 2. He is Mediator superior covenant 10:1-4; 10:16-18),
 - 3. Superior sacrifice made once for sins of world Heb 9:11-14; 10:14,17

- C. Exhortation & encouragement Heb 10:19-39 (v 19 begins with Therefore)
 - 1. Our confidence Heb 10:19-22
 - a. We can enter "the Holiest" with "boldness"
 - b. Jesus showed the way Heb 6:20 (also: 2:17,18; 7:25)
 - 2. Our responsibility Heb 10:23-25
 - a. Must hold fast don't waver 1Cor 16:13
 - b. Must "consider one another" Phil 2:3-4
 - 3. Our fate if fail to take being Christian seriously Heb 10:26-29
 - a. In context "sin willfully" is forsaking assembling as well as things mentioned earlier. Yet what follows applies to us if we persist in any sin.
 - b. God will not provide us another way out of sin! The "way" is the only way! Don't take it for granted! Jhn 14:6
 - c. A "lesser to greater" argument: If sins in O T received punishment, what should we expect under this superior covenant (Note: Acts 20:32; and recall Heb. 4:14
 - 4. Certainty of fate Heb 10:30-31; Rom 11:22
 - b. We may "forget" God, but He will not forget us!
 - c. When tempted to sin, remember Heb 10:31
 - 5. Appeal to past Heb 10:32-34 - recall sacrifices already made
 - a. The doom that will befall us is real and terrifying, so writer appeals for us to recall how far we've come.
 - b. Everyone who obeys the gospel has made tremendous sacrifices Matt 10:35-39; Lk 9:23; Matt 5:11-12
 - c. If overcome by sin stop and recall how far we've come, and nothing more valuable than Lord Rev 2:4-5
 - 6. Appeal to the future Heb 10:35-39 must "stick it out"
 - a. Don't turn back now! Heb 10:35
 - b. Never forget that if we obey we will "receive the promise"!
 - c. Won't be long until this life is over or Lord returns

CONCLUSION:

- A. Being a Christian is serious! How about you? Do you have "boldness to enter the Holiest"? Are you drawing "near with a true heart and in full assurance of faith"? Are you meeting your responsibilities to yourself, your brethren, and your God?
- B. If you're not living as you should you need to: Fear! Heb 10:30-31 Remember how far you've come! Heb 10:32-34 Remember there's only a little ways to go! Heb 10:35-39 And don't "cast away your confidence, which has great reward." Heb 10:35
- C. I'm "confident of better things concerning you" Heb. 6:9, that you "are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul" Heb 10:39

From an outline by Craig V. Thomas