



The Book of Hebrews

Assurance of Faith

The just shall live by faith...

We now launch into the second half of the book of Hebrews. The word 'therefore' in verse 19 refers to the entire theological section from Heb 1:1 to 10:18. The rest of the book deals with the 'practical' aspects of sanctification and faith.

A. Assurance of Faith Heb 10:19-25

1. **Boldness:** [:19-21] Our boldness is based on the blood of the Lamb and His finished work on the cross.

2. **Four exhortations:** [:22-25] Because of the standing we have with Christ we are exhorted to:

(a) **Draw near with faith:** [:22] Because of what Christ has done for us we can do this with a 'true' heart and 'full' assurance. Sprinkled has to do with justification and washing with our sanctification.

(b) **Hold fast to hope:** [:23] This is the human side of salvation. Holding on is the outward evidence of salvation. Our hope is that Jesus is the Christ/Messiah.

(c) **Consider love:** [:24] Careful study for the purpose of inspiring love and good works in others.

(d) **Forsake not fellowship:** Do not 'abandon' fellowship as it is critical for growing in Christ.

B. Living by Faith Heb 10:26-38

The preacher now 'warns' of the impending judgment upon those who willfully reject the faith. However, his purpose is to 'exhort' those 'in the faith.'

1. **Warning against apostasy:** [:26-31] This may be a warning ONLY to the Jewish believers at that time and the judgment may be related to the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.

(a) **However...**this passage may also have implications for anyone in the Church age who renounces (turns away from) Christ and denies His work on the cross. (See verse 29)

(b) **The main point...**is that these Jewish believers had NOT YET renounced the Messiah and gone back into Judaism.

2. **Encouragement to faithfulness:** [:32-39] The heart of this section is simple! "Remember your former courageous faith."

(a) **Cast not away:** [:35] "Confidence" here does not refer to a character quality but rather the basis of their confidence—the finished work of Christ.

(b) **Be patient:** [:36] Here called 'endurance' in 'faithfulness' until the coming of the Lord.

(c) **The promise:** [:37-38] From Habakkuk 2:3-4 to show that God will fulfill His purpose.

(d) **We believe:** [:39] We are not like Judas (see John 17: 12), but believe in the finished work of Christ for our salvation.

Hebrews 10:19-39 (NKJV)

Hold Fast Your Confession

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and having a High Priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Just Live by Faith

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." **31** It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: **33** partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; **34** for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 "For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith;

*But if anyone draws back,
My soul has no pleasure in him."*

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.