

Q: How have you or someone you know or read about, been persecuted for their faith in Christ? How has their example of confident faith and boldness in Christ encouraged you? (check out the Voice of the Martyrs online at www.persecution.com or Open Doors www.opendoorsusa.org for inspiring stories of modern day heroes of the faith.)

Q: How can you encourage those currently suffering for their faith?

Q: How can the promise of Christ's return motivate you to "not throw away your confidence" and to persevere in the faith?

PRAY: Lord thank you for paving a way to have an ongoing very personal relationship with God. Thank you that you have made me holy in God's eyes, forgiving and doing away with all my sins and cleansing me of shame, guilt, and unrighteousness. Help me each day to live for you, as you make me more holy in this life too. Help me not to turn back to the things of this world that can become my idols. Help me to continue to fellowship with your people, to encourage others to press on, knowing your return is very soon. Thank you for the challenge and encouragement of your Word. In Jesus name, Amen!

Harvest Growing Deeper Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of November 17, 2019

Hebrews 10:1-39

Christ is the all sufficient once-for-all sacrifice and superior High Priest who intercedes on our behalf. The OT Law and sacrificial system was but a shadow that points to Jesus! By trusting in Him alone for forgiveness of sins and new life through Him, He has brought us back to God, made us forever holy in God's eyes and helps us become more like Him while we walk this life. Chapter 10 then encourages us how to live for Christ in community, and again warns those who want to throw it all away and thus reject Christ, who is the only hope anyone has to find eternal life and freedom.

Q: If Christ's sacrifice was once for all and totally sufficient to forgive all our sins, why do so many believers feel chronically guilty? Have you felt this way? How have you dealt with it?

Q: (10:1-2) How is the OT Law described here? What was it NOT able to do?

Q: (10:3-4) What did the OT sacrifices do and was not able to do for the people? Why did Christ have to come? (see 9:14).

Q: (v.8) The sacrifices and offerings were a test of faithful obedience to God. To some they just became a routine. What was God really after? (see Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8; 1 Sam 15:22-23; Matt 9:13).

Q: Do you ever find yourself praying, reading God's Word, attending church, (all good things) yet your heart is not in it? What do you need to do about that?

Q: (vv.10-14) How did Jesus make any future sacrifices unnecessary?

Q: (v.14) In what sense are Christians already made perfect (in God's eyes), yet are still in the process of being made holy (in this life)?

Q: Contrast the shortcomings of the old covenant (10:1-4) and the blessings of the new (10:15-18).

(vv.19-21) *Christ has paved the way to direct access to God for all who trust in Him.*

Q: (vv.22-25) List the "let us" statements in these passages. They highlight the actions of those who respond favorably to the gospel (Christians). Notice too they not just describe what *we get* out of fellowship with other believer, but what we can *contribute* to the fellowship. What are all Christians encouraged to do?

Q: (vv.24-26) Why is it critical that believers worship God in community? (see Acts 2:42-47)

Q: How have you been encouraged by others? How can we encourage and urge other believers on to love and good deeds? What is another motivation for this (see the end of v.25)?

Q: What happens when we isolate from other believers?

Q: Like in previous passages, the author strongly warns those who clearly know yet reject the truth. They are not to settle for anything less than worshipping the risen Messiah, Jesus Christ, (not the "shadow" of the OT ways). There were some who were tempted to turn back and completely reject Christ. (v.26) describes **not** the casual sins we struggle with, but the deliberate repeated disobedience, a life pattern of a sinful heart, a total rejection of Jesus (like the Pharisees or Judas Iscariot). There is no other way for them to find salvation apart from Christ (Acts 4:12). By rejecting Jesus, they are throwing away the only way to hope, forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation they could have. According to vv.27-31, what is their fate?

Q: (1 John 3:1-10) differentiates between true believers who show an overall pattern of growth in doing right, and those "imposters" who continue in an overall sinful pattern of life. (also see 1 John 2:19). There may have been people who looked like believers, claimed to be believers but perhaps had never had a heart transformed by Christ. Why is such a warning (Heb 10:26-31) necessary for the church today?

Q: (vv.32-39) After such a dire warning, how does the author appeal to previous testing (sufferings) due to their faith, present actions and future events to encourage them to press on (especially v.39)?