

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ
Enduring Faith in a Hostile Environment
Hebrews 10:26-39

In Matthew 16, Jesus told His disciples that His church would be built on the confession of faith, “You [Jesus] are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” For two thousand years, membership in the body of Christ has been based on individuals publicly embracing this confession. In this sense the church is a spiritual entity. Experience demonstrates for us just how difficult it is to live out the spiritual life in a physical world. The tendency is for us to go back to the way things were—to return to our former selves.

1. Know the danger of rejecting the gospel.

2. Remember the thrill of embracing Jesus.

3. Determine with intentionality to persevere.

We have internal battles where our hearts desire is to live by faith but the cultural influence on our mind blurs the concept of faith. We have external battles as well that lead us to distance ourselves from God and our convictions. In these battles we are faced with a choice. We can “draw back” and face the Lord’s displeasure and destruction, or we can choose faith and be rewarded at the Lord’s return.

For further consideration:

What does the author mean when he says “sin willfully” in verse 26? How does this attitude towards sin nullify Christ’s sacrifice for sins? What does it mean to reject the law of Moses and how does that compare to rejecting the new covenant in Christ? What does it look like to “trample the Son of God underfoot?” How is rejecting Christ a rejection of the Father? Recall the early days of your Christianity. What were they like? Is your zeal for Christ different from what it was then? In what ways do you see the culture mistreating and misrepresenting Christ in the public square? Have you ever been shamed because of your relationship with Christ? Did that shaming cause you to consider giving up your faith or did it cause you to resolve further to endure? What does it mean to be saved by our endurance in the faith? Is there anything in your life that needs to change to demonstrate a willingness to endure in the faith?