

WHAT'S NEXT?

GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE



August 2, 2021

This week we are looking at our response to Pastor Ronnie Phillips message titled, "Forsake Not" (Hebrews 10:19-25). Take time to examine this message more closely, alone, with family or a friend. This message will also be discussed on Sunday in many LifeGroups at Abba's House.

1. Pastor Ronnie started a new series called **Target Practice** with the message **Forsake Not**. It is easy to miss the mark! In archery, confidence comes after you have taken up the bow and time after time focused on the bullseye, the center point of that target. The repetition builds strength and develops the skill. In the Christian faith, it is easy to miss the mark! The bible tells us broad is the way to destruction, but the way is narrow that leads to life. Are you in the practice of building up your life in Christ or are you aiming at things outside of the target for a follower of Jesus?
2. The death and resurrection of Jesus opened up the way for us to confidently and corporately enter the Most Holy Place. Before Jesus' death, that was the place only reserved for the High Priest, once a year. But Jesus gave everyone who believes access to confidently approach the Lord. We can be confident in the blood of Jesus Christ, the miracle working power of the Holy Spirit, the word of God, and the hope we find when we gather together corporately as the church.
3. For many people, the church has been a disappointment, a source of pain and rejection. Some people love the church. Some use it. Some pray for it. Some want to help it. Despite its imperfections, our passage in Hebrews 10 instructs us to hold onto hope in the faithfulness of Jesus and not give up on meeting together at church, but to encourage one another to love and serve. The gathered church is important. Let's solve the issues. Let's forgive one another. Let's reach the world with the love of Jesus.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Where is your confidence? Have you given up on the usefulness of the church? Have you stopped serving? Do you have wounds that need to be healed? Are you the cause of confusion and infighting? Spend some time this week considering the value you are placing on connection to the body of Christ. Are you missing the mark? Or are you laser focused and hitting the target by sharing the love of Jesus, serving others, attending regularly, and investing your life in the church? Ask the Holy Spirit to restore your first love and give you confidence to approach the Most Holy One in prayer this week.

GOING DEEPER:

I. New Confidence to Consider (Hebrews 10:19-25)

- Jesus' victory gave us our confidence. It was a once and for all and once and for EVERYTHING sacrifice! (1 Peter 1:20; Hebrews 10: 11-17)
- What is the difference in a faith of works and a faith that preserves?
- The Christian life is about perseverance, not perfection. Those who persevere will never lose their faith. They may miss the mark at times, but they will be aware, through the Holy Spirit, that they require an adjustment in their lives.

II. New Way of Worship (Hebrews 10:20-21; Matthew 27:51)

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming. Endless sacrifices are no longer necessary. A shadow is an outline. It gives you more information, but it is insufficient.

This new way of worship is:

- Boldness because of the blood
- Faith not fear (High Priest would enter with fear and trembling)
- Worship should always be FRESH because the living Christ is always fresh and makes things brand new.
- The veil was torn. You no longer have to pass through the veil to get to the Holiest. You have access.
- High Priest who presides over the heavenly courts of God's Kingdom

III. New Hope to Hold on To (Hebrews 10:22-23; Romans 13:10; Romans 15:7)

You're most like Jesus when you love someone who doesn't love you back and can't do anything for you. Is the way you love others conditional? **Romans 15:7 reminds us to "receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God."**

- Hope is full assurance
- Cleansed from the inside out
- We long for his presence.
- We choose to live on purpose
- We know He is coming back because he promised is faithful!

IV. New Grace in the Gathering (Hebrews 10:24)

Is your commitment to the local church conditional? Do you only look for opportunities to serve yourself or your ideas? Or are you driven by the mission and vision of the local church?

Engage God's presence.
Equip God's people.
Expand God's Kingdom.

Abba's House is a family passionately pursuing our freedom in Christ, sharing His love, and helping people fulfill their purpose. We are a house of grace that exists to help people live free and fully alive.

How does your life match up to the mission and vision of the church? Are you attending regularly? Are you bringing others with you to church? Are you being discipled or discipling others? Are you sharing the love of Jesus with others?

IV. New Grace in the Gathering

Some people go to church seasonally.

Some people use church selfishly.

Some people serve the church faithfully.

The reason for church is to obey God and serve others.

We gather:

To receive grace from God

To give something back to God

To encourage and equip God's people

To work, worship, and witness until we see the day approaching.

Jesus is coming back! We see wars, pandemics, famines, hatred, unforgiveness, and a disregard for the word of God.

Christ loves His church, He cares for His church, and He protects and preserves His church. We are His favorites. I believe the Bible gives us four reasons why we will not face the Great Tribulation.

1. The Church is Absent from Scripture During the Tribulation. You will search in vain for the church after Revelation 4:1 until the descent of the New Jerusalem. The church has certainly faced persecution and trouble across the years, and this will continue, but "the Great Tribulation" is not for the church.

2. The Church is Under the Protection of God.

We are "not appointed unto wrath..."

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

3. The Church is to be Gathered!

We will be "gathered together unto Him..."

2 Thessalonians 2:1

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

The word "gathered" comes from episunoge, which means "to collect completely and bring all to one place."

4. The True Church is to “Depart” Before the Antichrist is Revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (KJV)

The first event that must take place before the day of the Lord comes is called “the falling away” in the original King James Version of the Bible (vs. 3). This is an unfortunate translation. The basis for this translation lies in the fact that elsewhere in the Bible, a time of great apostasy or “falling away” from true Christian doctrine is prophesied for the time preceding the Lord’s return. Although this is true in itself, it is not the meaning of the Greek word found here.

The word translated “falling away” is the Greek word *apostasia*, preceded by the definite article. *Apostasia* has given us our word “apostasy”, but the word itself simply means “a departure.” In a context where the truth or falsity of doctrine is in view, the word would naturally mean “a departure from true doctrine” or “apostasy.” But here, where the issue is the past or future coming of Jesus Christ for His saints, and where a particular event is specified using the article, the word can mean equally well: “the departure of believers to be with Jesus” or “the rapture.”

In Kenneth S. Wuest’s study, referred to earlier, these following additional facts are elaborated upon. *Apostasia* occurs in the New Testament only twice, but it is based on the verb *aphistemi*, which occurs fifteen times. Eleven times, it is translated “depart,” never as a “falling away.” Unfortunately, most of the English versions follow the leading of the King James Version. But it is significant that in the versions that precede the publication of the King James Bible –those of Tyndale (1534), Coverdale (1535), Cranmer (1539), and the Geneva Bible (1560), the word *apostasia* was translated as “departure”, and the reference was obviously to the much-anticipated rapture of God’s saints. (Dr. James Boice *The Last and Future World*)