

## **When Times Are Tough (Hebrews 10:19-39 July 1, 2012)**



As the years have gone by – one quote of Spurgeon's has continued to help me understand life in this world.

It is this:

All the way to heaven, we shall only get there by the skin of our teeth. We shall not go to heaven sailing along with sails swelling to the breeze, like sea birds with their fair white wings, but we shall proceed full often with sails rent to ribbons, with masts creaking, and the ship's pumps at work both by day and night. We shall reach the city at the shutting of the gate, but not an hour before.<sup>1</sup>

There are times in my life when it is sweet sailing – sails swelling to the breeze. But all too often life has its storms – and at times it seems that the storms will swamp the ship.

Over the years I have seen Christians shipwreck their lives, their families, their faith.

But what I have come to know with absolute certainty – it need not be so.

The Christian life can be tough – but God has told us where to turn to make sure we persevere to the end.

As we take a one week break from Colossians – I want to take us to one of my favourite passages that tells us what we are to do when times get tough.

That passage is Hebrews 10:19-39.

Let me set the scene for you.

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<sup>1</sup> Cited in Iain Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1973) p. 24.

This book was written to a group of Jews who had turned to Christ. But then the storms of life came. Persecution, suffering, struggles.

And they were thinking – wow – I thought it would be easier.

Some were wondering if they should turn back to the safe, well-trodden road of Judaism.

The whole book of Hebrews is written to convince them that the only real choice is to stay the course – to cling to Christ.

In chapter 10, the author of Hebrews gets very practical.

While the direct context is persecution, this advice applies no matter the trial. Sin, finances, marriage, loneliness, persecution.

Just have a look at these verses in chapter 10:

Verse 23: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope.

Verse 35: Do not throw away your confidence.

Verse 36: You have need of endurance.

They were struggling to keep going in the faith.

Struggling just to put one foot in front of the other, they needed to find a way to endure through this tough time.

So what do we do when the tough times come?

In this passage we are given *five* pieces of advice about what to do – ***When Times Are Tough*** – the *first* thing to do is:

***When Times Are Tough***

**Run to Christ**

**Remember His faithfulness**

**Rekindle one another**

**Recognise there is none other**

**Reflect on heaven**

**Run to Christ**

Look at Hebrews 10:19-22:

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

All the chapters of Hebrews leading up to this point are given to show us that the Scriptures teach that salvation comes by faith in Jesus – our Great High Priest.

A picture is drawn of God and us – to show us why we need a Great High Priest.

In the Middle East of biblical times – no one – absolutely no one could just approach a king with *any* assurance.

Remember Esther. In Esther 4:11, Queen Esther says this:

All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden sceptre so that he may live.

Even the Queen could not simply approach the throne with any confidence. Even those given permission had to come in bowed or even backwards.

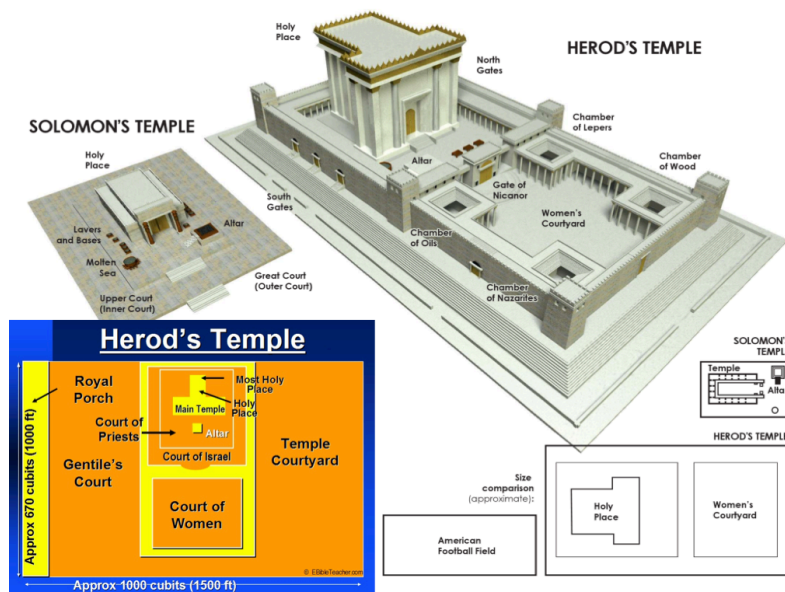
And here we are not just talking about a human king. We are talking about God – the King of kings. He is holy and we are sinful. We will be incinerated by His holiness.

The Scriptures tell us that God is too pure to even look upon sin.

Sinful men cannot even look at the trailing edge of the glory of God.

There is a vast unbridgeable distance between God and man. Man cannot draw near to God.

The whole layout of the Temple showed this.



The outermost court was known as *the Court of the Gentiles*. Everyone, Jew and Gentile was permitted to enter this area.

Then, a low inner wall enclosed three further courts, *the Court of the Women* – beyond which Jewish women may not go, *the Court of the Israelites* – into which Jewish men may go, and finally *the Court of the Priests* – the innermost of the courts into which only priests might set foot.

Within the Court of the Priests was the Temple proper where the sacrifices were conducted. There were actually two veils in this portion of the Temple. One veil was a beautifully coloured Babylonian curtain which separated the Holy place from the porch.

At the rear of the Holy place was another curtain which led into the Holy of Holies. Entrance to this place was only permitted once per year when the High Priest would enter to make atonement for the sins of the nation.

This whole setup showed the separation between God and man. Areas beyond which Gentiles could not pass. Areas beyond which women could not pass. Areas beyond which men who were not priests could not pass. And an area beyond which no one could pass except the High Priest and then he could pass only once per year to make atonement for the sins of the nation.

God was separate. Sinful men and women cannot approach Him.

Then Jesus died on the cross and everything changed. We are told that the inner curtain, the one that separates the Holy place from the Holy of Holies, was torn asunder.

The rending of this curtain had obvious significance.

Once only the High priest could draw near to God. Now all who are sons of God can draw near. We are all priests. We can all approach the throne of grace. We can all

come to confess our sins and receive forgiveness. The death of Christ tore down the barriers between Holy God and sinful man.

Those in Christ could come before the Lord bearing the righteousness of Christ. What was once unthinkable, now was possible.

The rending of the veil whereby man could have access to God was the greatest event in history. Through the blood of Christ, through His flesh, through the work of the Great High Priest over the house of God, man could come to God.

Restricted access is something we understand on a human level. I can't just saunter up to Campbell Newman's office and wander in for a chat.

I can't just pick up the phone and dial Julia.

When we were touring around the US, we spent a few days in Washington DC. I wanted to see the White House. I soon found out that to get past the front gate you needed a ticket. Each Congressman and Senator has a certain number of tickets available for each day.

Dena's uncle pulled a few strings, we went searching found this congressman's office, got some tickets for the next day. We turned up, and I thought half the world had turned up. There was this huge line down the gate, round the corner and several people deep. After a few hours in line we came to a metal detector and some secret servicemen searched us.

We then got this quickie tour of a few rooms of the White House.

It was all pretty superficial. We never got to see any important room let alone get anywhere near the Oval Office. There was no way we would ever get a glimpse of the President of the time – Bill Clinton.

Today, the President is President Obama. If you want to get near him, you can do a couple of things.

You can donate a few million to his re-election campaign. That will get you in the same room and maybe, just maybe warrant a photo with Him.

Or if you don't have a few million spare, you can simply try and walk up to him. But I can tell you now – the Secret Service won't let peons like us anywhere near the orbit of President Obama.

Barack Obama is man like you and me. A sinful man. Yet, I have no hope of drawing near to him.

In contrast, God is not a man. God is not sinful. Apart from Christ, not even Barack Obama or the Queen could arrange for a few minutes with God.

But because of what Christ the divine High Priest has done – in washing us clean – we *can* approach Him and approach with full assurance. God – the Creator and

Sustainer – the King of Kings – will accept us as beloved in Christ. The veil is gone. The least of men can have permanent full time access to God through the blood of Christ.

But, this new ease of access means we often take it for granted.

Tens of thousands cue for hours daily to see the downstairs of where Presidents live. Powerful men pay fortunes for a few minutes of his time.

But because of the torn curtain – we have unfettered access to God – the Creator of the universe – any time.

We can draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We can come before a holy God because we are clean. Christ washed us in His blood. Took out every stain.

We can come into His presence whenever we want. We can pray, talk to Him, tell Him our troubles – knowing that our prayers ascend like incense to His very throne.

But here is the kicker.

Recently the Queen invited a small random sample of commoners from throughout the Commonwealth to her Jubilee celebrations.

If you or I received that invitation – we would sell the dog if we had to in order to pay for airline tickets to be there.

We would brag to every friend and relative for decades about the fact that we got to stand – so that with a high powered lens – we could almost see the Queen.

But listen to James 4:8:

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Wow! Listen to that again.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Creator. The Sustainer. The only One who can help you. The One who can change the course of your eternal destiny. The One who can strengthen you in the day of trial. The One who can reach the heart of your straying child or husband.

Him we barely ever talk to – unless we are in trouble and have exhausted every other avenue.

God longs for us to draw near to Him.

He longs to hear our troubles.

He longs to aid us.

When times are good run to Christ – so that when times are tough – we know to run to Christ.

I talk to people struggling and ask them – who did you run to?

They ran to a neighbour, a counsellor, a doctor – but not Christ.

Run to Christ. Run to Christ.

***When Times Are Tough*** – there is a *second* thing we must do.

### **Remember His Faithfulness**

Verse 23:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

In the next chapter – chapter 11 – the author of Hebrews runs through a variety of saints who held faithful. But they are just as readily a testimony to the faithfulness of God.

Despite the sin of Israel – God was faithful.

Despite the persecution of the nations – God was faithful.

Despite the best efforts of Satan – God was faithful.

Here is the point. Philippians 1:6:

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

God has a plan for each of His children. While our lives may not run according to our plan – they most certainly run according to His plan.

Not sin, not the world, not Satan – no one can derail God's plan for us.

Romans 8:28:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Trials are there to make us trust God and mould us to be like Christ.

God even uses the dark times for good.

Joseph in prison. Christ on the cross.

God is all powerful and all good. Whatever happens in our life is somehow a part of the tapestry of salvation. And through it all – nothing can derail God’s plan for us.

Romans 8:38–39:

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There are times I just don’t understand what is going on or why.

But I know God is sovereign and He knows. So I sit back and:

### **Remember His Faithfulness**

He will never desert me or let me down.

***When Times Are Tough*** – there is a *third* thing we must do.

### **Rekindle One Another**

Hebrews 10:24–25:

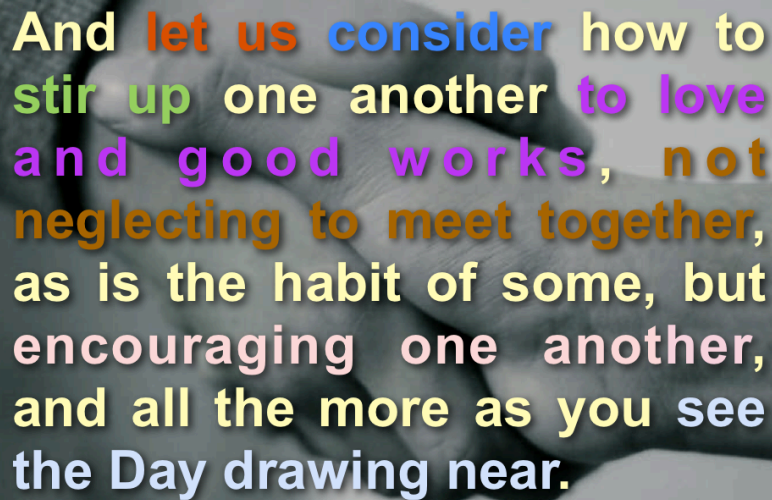
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

When times are tough – one of the greatest resources we have is each other.

Just look at these verses for a moment.

Notice these points.





And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

### 1. Let us.

It does not say – let the pastors consider how to stir you up to love and good works.

It says – let us – the body of Christ – Christians – consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

There are levels of stirring up one another to love and good works.

There is the general level – the guy who is asking – how was your time in the Word? Are you rejoicing in Christ?

But, to really stir up someone requires they know us. And for someone to know us takes time and a degree of vulnerability.

If you are married, the perfect encourager should be your spouse. But we do need a number of friends to help us on our way.

Unfortunately most of us are too busy or too proud to make those type of friendships where we can share our struggles, our hopes, our joys.

When I counsel, I often ask the men and the women – do you have someone – other than your spouse you can share your struggles with?

It is very rare that anyone says yes.

Guys seem to want this perfect other guy to bond with – who likes the same things – who gets me – we just click.

Ladies seem to want a soul sister.

Finding that someone is hard. And finding a couple you both click with is rare.

The body of Christ is diverse. God put us together.

Make friends. It doesn't have to be the perfect person. Find someone mature enough to share with, who will keep their mouth closed about what you share, and will give you godly advice.

Dave and I simply cannot know every one of you well enough to know your struggles, hopes, place in life. We can't individually encourage every one of you.

That is why the task is not given to pastors – but to the whole body.

There are some great men and women here. But if you sit at home waiting for them to come and meet you – you will wait a long time.

Get involved – make friends – share your journey – be vulnerable.

## **2. Consider.**

This is a thinking word.

You have to make a conscious decision to get involved in the lives of others.

You are surrounded by other saints. Some are doing better than others but all of them are struggling in some way.

This verse says – consider how you will stir up those saints to love and good works.

How often do you take the time to stop and think about how you can stir up other believers to love and good deeds? In fact is that something you have ever done?

I keep hearing – no one reached out to me. No one befriended me. No one met my needs. And I wish it were not so.

But I often ask – have *you* reached out to anyone? I usually get told – but I am the hurting one – they should minister to me. Yes.

But since we are all hurting in some way – if we all wait to be ministered to – we will wait forever.

When you come to church, or go to homegroup or visit each other in the week – do you consciously set out to encourage one another and think how to stimulate that brother or sister in the Lord to good deeds?

You must. Don't just come here to be ministered to. Come to minister to one another.

When a sister tells you that her mother is terminally ill – remind her that Christ died that death might lose its sting.

When a brother tells you he lost his job – remind Him that Christ will supply all his needs now and eternally.

Live your faith. Encourage the brother who is weak. Bear the burden of the sister who is struggling. Exhort the saint who is slipping into sin.

Talk about Christ and heaven and holiness.

We don't live the Christian life alone. We are a body. We live it together.

One of the greatest avenues to finishing well is the support of our fellow Christians.

I get emails and phone calls – so and so is struggling. Yes. Well someone should minister to them. Yes. That is why I am letting you and Dave know.

It is almost as if Dave and I are the only ones capable of encouraging someone.

You are part of the body. You know them.

Once upon a time there were four men named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about it, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place.

Hebrews 10 says – **you** are the somebody who has the responsibility.

Encourage, edify, spur on, comfort, counsel.

And don't wait till someone is falling apart before you.

Invite someone over. Take them a meal. Write an encouraging letter. Babysit. Send them to dinner. Tell them what spurred you on in the Word.

Make a decision to encourage a brother or sister today.

### **3. Stir Up**

The word here is a strong word – provoke, whip up.

The New Testament is filled with the one anothers.

Some of them are hard words – admonish one another, rebuke one another.

Some of them are words of inspiration – encourage, build up, comfort.

It takes time and effort to stir one another up.

Left to our own devices – we fall to sin and sloth. We have to encourage each other – hold each other accountable. It is hard work.

After our men's camp – I was so encouraged to hear that a number of the young men covenanted to hold each other accountable to living holy and being the husband and father the Lord called us to be.

This is what this passage is about.

It is not just pastors, elders and sermons that have the job of stirring up. You do as well.

#### **4. To love and good works**

Underline this – circle it – memorise it.

What aches you as a pastor?

One of the things is that we have passive Christians – who do not actively consider how to stir up other saints in love and good deeds.

But another thing is when we have active Christians turn up – but they are certain that this verse reads like this:

And let us consider how to stir up one another to follow my pet area.

We have had many, many Christians turn up – fired up about their pet area.

Home schooling, the rapture, creation, KJV only.

If only they were as fired up to stir up others to love and good works!

To love Christ. To love the saints. To love their wives and children. To love the lost.

To do good works – for other saints and for their neighbours.

There are issues, causes, subjects we have to deal with. But they are secondary to Christ, the gospel, love.

I will share my heart here. I cringe when I hear of one of the sheep – who I know is struggling – and someone corners them on some peripheral issue – and I feel like screaming – can't you see they are struggling in some basic areas – put your hobby horse away and stir them up to love and good deeds! Pray with them. Ask them how their quiet time is. Ask them who they told about Christ. Ask them how their marriage is – not whether they have the minutia of the end times right.

Be passionate – man up – but make sure you are seeking first His kingdom. Make sure that those you stir up – you stir up to kingdom causes.

#### 4. Not neglecting to meet together.

If you see someone struggling – you know that what they need is fellowship, encouragement, sound counsel, prayer. You would want to say – come to church, come to prayer, come to homegroup.

But, paradoxically – when we are struggling – our sinful hearts tell us – don't go.

Maybe we don't like to smile and act like things are OK.

Maybe we think we will hear something we don't like.

We are busy. Sunday is our only day off. Weeknights we have kids and work.

And the place that will encourage us and grow us and help us – is the place we let slip.

Yet, I ask you. Have you ever had a Sunday when you just struggled to come to church? You had a bad week. Poor quite times. God seemed distant.

You really wanted to stay home – veg out, go to the park, play with the kids.

But you drag yourself along – it is the right thing to do.

And you sing those wonderful words of Robert Robinson:

Hither to Thy love has blest me;  
Thou hast brought me to this place;  
And I know Thy hand will bring me,  
Safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

And you gather around the Table of the Lord and remember His death for your sins.  
And the Word is opened and you are lifted to the heavenlies.

A brother encourages you and tells you that the Lord is sovereign.

And the dark clouds are blown away and you rejoice to be among the people of God.

There is a dynamic that occurs when the people of God gather together. Seeing faith fleshed out in others. Being encouraged by fellow pilgrims.

The author of Hebrews knows that when we are alone – we struggle to hold fast the confession of our faith – but when we gather with the saints and encourage each other – the reality of what Christ has done seeps into our lives.

## **5. Encouraging one another**

I sometimes weep how Christians treat each other at times.

We find fault. We fail to let love cover a multitude of sins. We complain. We are selfish. We shoot our wounded.

We love to be encouraged. But we don't encourage.

Acts 4:36 tells us this about Barnabas:

Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement).

Be a Barnabas.

The Apostles gave this man Joseph a new name – Barnabas – Son of Encouragement. This man was an encourager – a breath of fresh air. He was such a source of encouragement that they gave him the name – Son of Encouragement.

We have all met them – those people who make heaven more real and make our problems diminish.

That should be every one of us.

## **6. As you see the day drawing near**

Brothers and sisters, we have to realise that the day is drawing near. The time when Christ will come to end the suffering of this world. This world is not all there is. The wars and famines and disease will end. The struggle with our own sin. The pain of living in a fallen world **will** end.

We need to remind each other that this world is not all there is.

Heaven is coming. Christ is risen. Keep your eyes focussed above.

**Rekindle one another.**

***When Times Are Tough*** – there is a *fourth* thing we must do.

**Recognise there is none other**

Look at verses 26-29:

For if we go on sinning wilfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

We believe in the perseverance of the saints. Those in Him will endure to the end.

But, the Scriptures teach that there are some who claim to be in Christ – but turn away from Him.

1 John 2:19 tells us they were never truly Christ's:

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

The saints do not turn away – even when times are tough even though at times we feel like giving up. It is all too hard. God is distant. The heavens are like brass. Sin seems to be winning. The world looks good.

But as part of the toolkit for enduring, the writer of Hebrews wants us to understand what is at stake. There is no hope if we turn from Christ.

To turn from Christ shows we were never His and we have rejected the only path to heaven – Christ.

If Jesus left heaven and became our Great High Priest and died so that we might be washed clean and be able to approach the throne of Holy God and enter eternity.

And if ultimately we refuse to accept that – if we find ourselves in the great and wilful sin of unbelief – then we despise the greatest sacrifice in history.

The message for anyone toying with giving up, rejecting their faith – is that this is the path to eternal damnation – nothing is more certain.

If God spoke in His Son and declared that He is the way, the truth and the life – then anyone who rejects this truth – has rejected the One true sacrifice for sins and will face the judgment seat on their own merits and will be consumed by the eternal fire.

And anyone who gives up – finds no succour in the world.

One of the saddest things for me over the years has been to run into men and women who once named the name of Christ – but gave up. They seemed to be in Him but were not.

They tried the world. Tried its sins. And found nothing there.

It is so sad that I have a list of men and women I know personally – who shipwrecked their faith and then shipwrecked their lives. They are so wretched.

Jeremiah 2:13:

My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Taking any other path – leads to death – in this life and terribly in the life to come.

That is why James 5:19-20 says this:

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Look at verses 30 and 31:

For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Christ saves.

Without Christ – it is a terrifying thing.

Persevere.

Even the tough times are part of the plan of God and are for our good.

Recognise there is none other. To turn from Christ is death.

***When Times Are Tough*** – there is a *fifth* thing we must do.



# When Times Are Tough

Run to Christ

Remember His faithfulness

Rekindle one another

Recognise there is none other

Reflect on heaven



## Reflect on heaven

Look at verses 32-34:

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

I find these verses some of the most gut wrenching verses in the Bible.

This group of Jews were enlightened. They were given the gospel – the truth.

They heard about of Jesus who said – Seek first My Kingdom. You cannot serve two masters. Live for eternity.

They said – yes we will trust Christ. And it brought them condemnation and persecution. Their families and communities turned on them.

Look at what they suffered. Conflict. Being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations. They were abused and vilified.

They became sharers with those who were so treated. They saw what happened when you turned to Christ and they were **willing** to count the cost.

They showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted *joyfully* the seizure of their property. The persecutions extended to imprisonment and forced seizure of their worldly possessions.

It takes a great deal of faith to find joy in having your worldly goods seized.

How could they endure this? Because they knew that they had a better possession and a lasting one.

They lived for eternity. Their treasure was laid up for them in heaven.

This world is *not* all there is.

This is a fallen world with tears and pain.

But heaven is coming.

Verse 35:

Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

Do not throw away your confidence! Once they were so confident they would have gladly suffered anything for Christ. Now they were being worn down to the point of being ready to throw it all away.

About a year after I was saved I met a man who had been well known at my college. He was a fearless evangelist. He had been tormented for his faith. The night I met him – he was struggling. His confidence in Christ was gone. Life had robbed him of his joy in Christ. He was ready to throw it all away.

It happens.

Don't let it. Our faith has great reward. We escape eternal wrath. We have fellowship with Christ. We have eternity.

Remember, the only true life in this world and the world to come is in Christ.

Verse 36:

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

I despise the health wealth gospel. I despise it because it paints a picture of the Christian life as easy street.

That is **not** the Christian life. The Christian life is one of endurance. Our faith *will* bring persecution and trials. But our faith empowers us to endure so that we may receive the reward.

Verses 37-39:

For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure

in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

We are those who fix our eyes on heaven and live by faith and endure.

Revelation 21 is one of my favourite chapters. It describes heaven.

We are finally holy – done with sin. No consequences of sin. We enjoy God fully.

When you are struggling – realise this world is fallen – it is not how it is meant to be.

But Jesus came to set it right – and heaven is coming.

Brothers and sisters. You know there are tough times. You have been through them. Many are going through them now.

But these are our resources – God given us everything we need to help us persevere.

These resources are ours because of Christ. These resources are ours because Jesus cleaned us in His blood, tore down the curtain and gives us heaven.

We have a hope – our hope is Christ. And with Christ we are those who do not shrink back to destruction, but those who have faith and preserve their souls.