

Jesus Is Better Hebrews 10:19-25

Intro

When I was fired from a church in 2014 I held so much guilt. I struggled to let go. I was ashamed because I had spent my whole adult life working in ministry and now that was gone. I felt guilt because how would I provide for my family now. I was not ready to return to full time ministry. I need some time away from that role. My family had seen the abuse I endured at the church. It was my fault as well. I also felt guilt that I had avoid conflicts that arose and that I tried to ignore major issues that were in the ministry when I arrived.

Transition

I would say most people struggle with feelings of guilt in some way. Guilt because of an action taken or not taken, a thought, a desire, a need, words said or unsaid, etc. Guilt can be something that hangs around our neck pulling down. It can stagnate our emotional and spiritual growth. I want you to know that...

Sticky Statement: Jesus is Better than your guilt!

Passage

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus— 20 he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)— 21 and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Verse 19 the author reminds us that because of what I just said in the previous verses these things are true.

Last week we looked at the truth that **redemption has been God's plan from the beginning.**

We also see that because of the blood of Christ we can enter into the Holy of Holies.

We no longer have to be a Priest or go to a priest.

We can go directly to the creator with all our burdens.

It doesn't have to be a particular day of the year.

We can enter the presence of God anytime because of the work of Christ.

It is the through the living body of Christ that this was accomplished.

We are now able to approach the throne of God without fear because Christ now stands on our behalf, granting us access.

The last several chapters have been dealing with the never ending priesthood of Christ.

It is through this priesthood that we experience the grace of God.

Christ death and resurrection brings the ability to be in the very presence of God.

Remember that the author is writing to Jews.

He is drawing on the imagery of the temple and the sacrificial system.

Those that were converted from Judaism would have been very familiar with the sights, smells, and sounds of temple worship.

When a sacrifice was brought blood was sprinkled the alter in payment for sin.

There were various washings prescribed in the Old Testament to cleanse one for many reasons.

Verse 22 helps the original audience Connect Christ with the sacrifices and the washings.

This verse helps them to see how Christ has done those things for them permanently.

The blood sprinkled on the Day of Atonement and the OT washings were only temporary solutions for sin.

They were not enough to purify the conscience but only able to apply a bandaid.

They treated the symptom.

The blood of Christ treats the root of the issue, the very idea of sin.

Because of this, those that follow Christ no longer have to bear the guilt of their sin because Christ has taken that for us.

Jesus is Better than your guilt!

Lets pick back up with verse 23:

23 Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

I love this imagery here.

It paints the picture of clinging to Christ with all that we have.

We can not allow anything to move us from the truth of Christ.

The author of Hebrews is saying hold tight to the teachings of Christ and to Christ Himself.

Christ is where our hope is found and if we remove any part of Him He ceases to be God.

If He is no longer able to forgive sin, His death and resurrection no longer hold power.

If those things are not true then we should pack it up and go home.

If we chose to ignore His teachings and His proclamation of being God then we are wasting our time gathering here.

If we are not careful we will allow our guilt to dictate what we believe and how we see Christ.

Verse 24 reminds us that we are to encourage each other in doing the work that Christ has called us to do.

Living out the love of Christ and telling those around us about His love, justice, and grace.

Paroxysmon is the greek word used here.

It means to provoke, incite, irritate, angry dispute

I like the use of the word provoke in this translation.

Provoke means to stimulate or give rise to, in our case love, in someone.

We are to build each other up in such a way that it causes them to love Jesus and love others!

Verse 25 is one that many would like to ignore.

In order to encourage each other we must actually be around other believers.

So many want to say I can have church at home by myself just fine.

I can watch it live on Facebook.

If you are watching us Live right now we are glad you have joined.

We stream live because we know many times people cannot make it for various reasons.

However, we don't do it so that it can be an excuse not to be around others.

The church, while very much imperfect, is designed to build each other up.

If you are a follower of Christ then you need the Ecclesia, the Gathering.

We were not created to be alone but to be in community.

The church was created by Christ to be that community.

We cannot allow our guilt to stop us from gathering with others.

Jesus is Better than your guilt!

If you are watching this online then I encourage to find a local church that teaches Christ for who He truly is and go.

I understand some churches will judge you before you walk in and determine you don't belong.

I would like to say "I'm sorry, I'm sorry they didn't love you like Christ."

We serve a perfect creator but we are far from it.

We are still striving to be more like Him.

I encourage you to try again.

The last part of verse 25 reminds the Christian that we have a day to look forward too.

One day Christ will return and restore His creation to what it was before our sin mucked it all up.

We should work diligently preparing for that day.

But what does that work look like? Telling those around us about Christ.

Application

We spend so much of our lives controlled by a guilty conscience.

We then allow that guilt to stop us from doing what God has called us to do.

Guilt weighs us down, it makes us spiritually weak, and prevents us from falling at the feet of Jesus.

When we finally lay that guilt at Jesus' feet we can let go of things holding us back and embrace Christ with all we have.

Jesus is Better than your guilt!

Challenge

Have you been bound by guilt or are you free in Christ?