

do good works NOT to earn salvation or to KEEP salvation but to please the Lord. At salvation, God equipped you to do good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Galatians 6:10) *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

- 3) Urge one another to assemble for church. Church is a key time to share love and do good works for the Lord (v.25). Even in the first century, some Christians failed to attend ALL of the church services. God says we are to *exhort* one another to attend all the services where we can love and do good works. The word *exhort* means invite, admonish, persuade, beg, encourage, comfort or cheer.
- 4) If you are not a baptised member of this church, you ought to be. *Christians who are not church members are like orphans without a spiritual home of their own.*

b. The Lord's return is nearing

- 1) The day that is approaching probably refers to the Lord's return. It may include the Judgment Seat of Christ where Christians will give account of their service for the Lord.
- 2) As the day approaches, we ought to attend church even more faithfully, love more and do more good works. This is not a time for Christians to relax.
- 3) Serving the Lord through our local church is one of the best things you can do when discouraged.

Conclusion: If you have been discouraged, follow God's three challenges found in Hebrews 10:22-25. Draw near to God. Hold fast the hope you profess. Consider one another. We have much for which to be thankful and much to do. Let us keep our eyes on the Lord and His work.

If you do not know the Lord, let me help you today.

If you are not a baptised church member, talk with me about that need.

Song: Have Thine Own Way - 388

Don't Be Discouraged!

28 July 2019 AM - Hebrews 10:19-25 - Heb19 - Scott Childs

Introduction: Someone once wrote, "There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle." What a great thought. When life's troubles cover you like thick darkness, keep your spiritual candle burning.

Transition: Here God gives us **three challenges**, each beginning with "Let us", which ought to encourage us when we are down.

When we feel discouraged...

1. Let us draw near to God, v.22

a. We need desperately need God every day.

- 1) Because we are created beings, we are limited in our abilities. We have many needs that only God can supply.
 - a) We need God's **guidance** and **wisdom**. (James 1:5) *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*
 - b) We need God's **aid** in studying the Bible. (Psalms 119:18) *"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."*
 - c) We need God's **comfort** and **protection**. (Psalms 55:22) *"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."*
 - d) We need God's **deliverance** from Satan. (Ephesians 6:11) *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*
 - e) We need God's **answers** to prayer. (1 John 5:14-15) *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."*

- 2) We cannot meet our own needs. We need God!

b. We can draw near because Christ cleansed us

- 1) God is holy and sin separates people from God.
- 2) We CAN draw near to God because Christ has cleansed us.

The moment a person trusts Christ to save his soul from hell God washes him clean. (1 Corinthians 6:11) "*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*"

- a) He sprinkled His blood over us and cleansed our evil consciences.
- b) He washed us clean with His pure water.
- 3) Because we are clean, we can now draw near to God with a true heart in full confidence of faith. (Romans 8:1)
"*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*"
- 4) If we confess our sin to God, we can draw near to Him.

When we feel discouraged...

2. Let us hold fast our professed hope, v.23

a. Hope encourages the heart.

- 1) This verse says, "*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.*" The word here translated "*faith*" is usually translated hope. In fact, this is the only time in the Bible it is translated faith.
- 2) Bible hope is a confident expectation. We can confidently expect God to keep His promises.
- 3) If you are a Christian, you need not be discouraged. Hold fast your hope in God's promises.
 - a) God promises to **resurrect** Christians who have died and to take them and living Christians to be with Him. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*"
 - b) God promises you a **home in heaven**. (Philippians 3:20) "*For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*"
 - c) God promises you an eternal home free from all the

troubles of this life. (Revelation 21:4) "*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*"

- d) God also promises you **forgiveness** when you confess your sins. (1 John 1:9) "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"
- e) God promises that nothing can separate you from His **love**. (Romans 8:38-39) "*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"
- f) God's promises are a blessing!

b. The promise-giver is faithful

- 1) The greatest motivation to hold fast our profession of hope is that God who promised is faithful. (1 Thessalonians 5:24) "*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*"
- 2) The hymn, "**Great is Thy Faithfulness**" is a great reminder. Read the words in *Great Hymns of the Faith* # 40. Think about these words.

When we feel discouraged...

3. Let us consider one another, v.24-25

a. Get your eyes off yourself

- 1) When God said, "*consider one another*" He was saying that we must observe or take a look at others.
- 2) We must provoke or urge on one another toward love and good works. **When discouraged, we get our eyes on ourselves instead of on being a blessing to others.**
 - a) Urge one another to **love**. Love is an action. It is giving of yourself to meet the needs of another. You can love with a kind word, a helpful deed, an encouraging note, a thoughtful gift, etc.
 - b) Urge one another to do **good works**. Christians are to