

## Enduring with Anticipation

Hebrews 10: 32-37

After years of Bible reading and personal study, Hebrews 10 has become one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture. Each time I approach this passage I am aware of the depth of its truth and the divine character of God it reveals. While I am certain I have only begun to scratch the surface of its truth, I enjoy drinking from this deep well.

The chapter opens with a discourse regarding the plan of God for the redemption of mankind, the obedience of Christ, and the atonement for sin. Where sin caused separation and condemnation, Christ provided redemption and restoration. The debt of sin was atoned in His sacrifice on the cross and the righteousness of God was forever satisfied.

Following such holy conversation, the Hebrew writer focused his attention on the responsibility of the redeemed in regard to the salvation we have received. While Christ provided our salvation freely on the cross, and we rest in His finished work, such a glorious gift comes with responsibilities. As we consider the [admonitions](#) in the text, I trust we will be challenged and enlightened in our walk with the Lord. I want to discuss the thought: [Enduring with Anticipation](#).

**I. A Call for Remembrance** (32-34) – Here the believers were challenged to remember their standing in Christ and obligation to follow Him. They faced great opposition, and yet they were well equipped to serve the Lord. They were challenged to remember:

**A. Their Standing** (32) – [But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.](#) No doubt the early believers were much like other generations of believers. Upon receiving Christ their hearts were filled with joy and great anticipation. They were delivered from the bondage of sin, set free in Christ. Such grace brought a genuine desire to serve the Lord and reach others. Their initial joy was soon met with opposition. Not everyone shared their faith – some even opposed it. These often faced intense persecution for their faith. The joy of salvation was soon met with the temptation of complacency and silence. They were called to remember the time when they were first illuminated with the light of the Gospel, and to return to that attitude and commitment toward service.

- While our struggles are much different, discouragement and doubt are universal; the enemy will see to that. He strives to create situations that tempt the believer to focus on the adversity and question their faith. Like the early believers, we too need to remember the time when we first received the Gospel. We need a renewed zeal and commitment for the Lord. If we could recapture that passion, we would experience a profitable change within the church!

**B. Their Suffering (32-33)** – They were also called to remember the former suffering. This was likely not difficult to do, but they were challenged to consider such adversity in the right perspective. Remembering past adversity and eventual victory would provide much needed courage and resilience for the future. They were reminded of:

**1. The Severity of their Suffering (32)** – *But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.* Their struggles were many. They faced intense opposition, literally being forced to fight for the faith. The word afflictions has the idea of “suffering.” These had suffered for their faith in Christ. As our world continues to change, we too face increasing opposition. I do not like the “martyr’s complex” many believers in America have adopted, but the possibility of suffering for the faith is becoming very real in modern society.

**2. The Diversity of their Suffering (33)** – *Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.* Their suffering was actually two-fold. They had faced mockery and abuse because of their faith in Christ. Their witness for Him had been publicly ridiculed and rejected. They were also attacked because of their association with those of like faith. For the world at large, every believer was guilty by association.

- In the relative calm we experience, now is the time to become settled in our faith and prepared for the opposition that is sure to come. As our world becomes more ungodly, drawing nearer to the Lord’s return, we will face increased opposition for our faith. Those who stand for the faith will be publicly mocked and ridiculed. Those who gather with the church for worship will be attacked because of our identification with the church. These are to be expected and I am convinced we will soon enough face such opposition.

**C. Their Steadfastness (34)** – *For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.* These had been wronged by their fellow men, suffering the loss of personal items. Their homes and possessions had been ravaged by those who opposed the Gospel. They were ridiculed and numbered among the accused for their compassion toward others who were imprisoned for their faith. However, such adversity had not broken their spirit or resolve to serve the Lord. During such adversity, they knew heaven would provide blessings far better than any material possessions lost or gained down here. An eternal perspective allowed them to continue in the faith!

- An eternal perspective and persistent faith can provide great courage and comfort in the face of opposition. The struggles we face are sure to intensify in the future. Some in America are

already suffering financially because of their faith, being sued and forced to pay large sums of money for refusing to abandon biblical principles. We cannot predict what we will have to endure, but we are assured that heaven will provide far more than we can imagine. Every struggle we have faced will be worth it when we stand in the presence of our Lord and Savior!

**II. A Call for Resilience (35-37)** – As the believers remembered their past and the fact they had overcome many struggles, they were challenged to remain resilient in the faith. This involved:

**A. Their Confidence (35)** – *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.* The Lord had proven faithful in previous adversity, and He wasn't about to abandon them as the opposition increased. They were challenged to remain confident in the faith, enduring coming adversity with confidence in the Lord's ability to provide. Their struggles here were difficult to endure; that was without question. However, their faithfulness would not go unrewarded. The Lord was keeping a record and He would reward their faithfulness in heaven.

- Again, it is easy to focus on the trials we face and lose sight of the provision available in Christ. The world will continue to oppose the church and the Gospel, but we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. He will provide the strength and courage we need to endure. We must maintain our faith through an eternal perspective. Your faithfulness in the face of adversity is not unnoticed by the Lord and it will not go unrewarded. *James 1:12 – Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* *Rev.2:7 – He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

**B. Their Patience (36)** – *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.* Such resilience to pursue the will of God in the face of opposition required patience. This speaks of "*endurance and perseverance.*" They would be tempted in a moment of intense opposition to abandon their faith for a moment of reprieve. They were challenged to resist such temptation and remain steadfast in their faith.

- Many of us struggle with patient endurance. We live in a world of instant gratification. For those of us in America, we have faced very little real opposition for our faith. When that opposition comes, and it will, we too must endure faithful. No doubt the enemy will seek to plant seeds of doubt and discouragement, causing many to question whether the cause of Christ is worth the effort and the struggle. We cannot allow a moment of suffering to defeat our faith. Now is the time

to establish a close and strengthening relationship with the Lord. It will be essential to endure when the struggles come.

**C. Their Assurance** (37) – *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

Such a promise puts everything we have discussed in a proper perspective. While the believers faced opposition for their faith, they had not been abandoned by the Lord. He has gone away, but He is preparing a place for the saved, and He will come again. Their opposition was very real and difficult at that present time, but it would not last forever. The promise of eternal life in Christ exceeded any opposition they faced. They knew their eternal destiny was settled in Christ the Lord.

- This is the hope and assurance of every generation of believers. The promise of Christ's return has sustained the church since Pentecost. We have no way of knowing what we will face in this life, but we can face it with the assurance of our Lord's return. The struggles of life will endure but for a moment, and our eternity will be spent in the presence of the one who secured our salvation as He bled and died on the cross for our sin. The troubles and heartaches of this life will not be remembered as we worship our Savior throughout the endless age!

**Conclusion:** This passage reveals eternal truth that offers hope and encouragement in our lives at this moment. This truth will never change, and it has provided strength for generations of believers. If you are struggling today, remember the Lord's faithfulness in past difficulties. Those were difficult times as well, but the Lord brought you through. He will not fail you now. We must remain committed to the cause of Christ, regardless of the struggles we face at any given moment. If you need strength, He is able to provide. If you need salvation, He is ready to save!