**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son**

**Hebrews 10:19-39**

**Confidence, Confession, and Courage through Christ**

Now that we have confidence in Jesus (as both our Priest and Sacrifice to make our plea to God). . . vv. 19-25

 Let’s draw near faithfully and without reservation.

 Let’s hold fast our confession without any fear.

 Let’s become creative in ways encourage one another.

 Let’s not abandon our common faith as the Day nears.

After all, if we reject Jesus, what is left but judgment? vv. 26-31

(Remember that to consciously and finally reject Him would be far worse than disobeying Moses’ laws, since we would be profaning Christ’s blood and blaspheming His Spirit!)

But just as you have overcome persecution before (identifying with those who lost everything, knowing your true possessions are in Heaven), you need only stay the course, adding endurance to your spiritual disciplines.

 vv. 32-36

For Jesus will return at the right time to reveal those who are truly living by faith (which you are!) and to judge those who reject Him out of fear (of persecution). vv. 37-39

***Life is a test, not a game.***

*1. What exactly is at stake here?*

Our author is so passionate about his readers being tempted to “throw away” their faith because they are being persecuted for following Jesus. The warnings of “sinning deliberately” and “neglecting to meet together” are not about a garden variety temptation or missing a church service or two, but rejecting Jesus. What is at stake is their souls. MT 16:24-27

*2. How do they (or we) keep from falling from our faith?*

Our desire to belong, to be comfortable, and not to be persecuted (or watch our children be persecuted) can be very strong. But Jesus warned of such things, and here is presented as the one who both died for them and makes intercession for them. These facts and His promises are to be believed and acted upon, and when they are, faithfulness is the fruit. If they don’t want to give up their faith, they won’t. Likewise with us. 1 Pet 1:3-5

*3. For what are we to hope?*

As we saw last week, “happily ever after” is a pointer to eternity, not this life. Here there are hardships, suffering, pain, and eventually death; Jesus came to enter into this fallen world for us so that we can be eternally with Him (and our) Father. The hope which we await is Him. LK 12:8-40

*4. Who is there to help us?*

The Bible is written to the people of God, the community of faith. We were never meant to have merely a “private thing” with Jesus, but to belong to a spiritual family which supports / encourages one another. Rom 12:1-18