

Hebrews

Chapter 10, Part 5

- I. Introduction
 - a. The writer of Hebrews spent 9½ chapters laying out the foundation of the Superiority of Jesus
 - i. In our last two lessons, he looked at two possible responses by those he was writing to
 1. Strengthened faith for true believers
 2. Apostasy for false professors
 - b. Today's lesson is a bridge between the responses to the person of Jesus and the examples of enduring faith in the Bible
 - i. The writer will encourage his recipients to endure
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 32-39**
 - i. The writer of Hebrews first encourages those to whom he is writing to endure like they had done "*in the former days*"
 1. We are not sure what exactly they suffered
 - a. But whatever it was, it was not merely suffering as is common to man
 - i. Their suffering was the result of their profession of faith in Christ
 1. Today, we'd label this as persecution
 - b. They had been "*publicly exposed*" in their sufferings
 - i. So, we can be somewhat confident that the local authorities were at least aware and possibly involved in the persecution of these saints
 - c. They had been "*publicly exposed*" to both "*reproach and affliction*"
 - i. "*reproach*" speaks more of verbal abuse
 - ii. "*affliction*" speaks more of physical abuse
 - d. Some of them had been "*partners*" with those that had been persecuted
 - i. It is possible that some of them were persecuted merely because of their relationship to another Christian
 2. Whatever the suffering was, they had "*endured*" it
 - a. The Greek word ὑπομένω (hypomenō – here translated "*endured*") means "to stay under"
 - i. That is, even under the burden of trials, they had endured without "dropping their load"
 - b. In reminding them of what they had already endured, the writer is calling them to continue to endure so as to show themselves to have made a true profession of faith

- ii. These saints *“had compassion on those in prison, and [they] joyfully accepted the plundering of [their] property”*
 - 1. We need to recall that prisons during this day weren’t fully government funded institutions
 - a. If an inmate was to eat, he had to be supplied food by his friends and family
 - i. Clearly, these saints had sacrificed their own well being to help those believers who had been imprisoned because of their faith
 - 1. Thus the phrase *“plundering of your property”*
 - a. There was sacrifice involved
 - 2. Many believers were imprisoned during the first century
 - a. Paul said, *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12)*
 - i. Obviously this could be in *“reproaches and afflictions”*
- iii. These saints weren’t looking to his earth as their best life now
 - 1. Their focus was on the future when they would have *“a better possession and an abiding one”*
 - a. Our focus is to be on *“the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God” (Hebrews 11:10)*
 - i. Clearly, these saints had exhibited such a focus
 - 1. The writer therefore encourages them to continue to endure as they had already shown the ability to do
 - a. This ought to be one of the ways that we encourage one another (**Hebrews 10:25**)
- iv. We must remember from our previous lesson that endurance is the proof of being a true disciple of Jesus (**John 8:31; 1 John 2:19**)
 - 1. Since endurance is the proof of salvation, those that endure *“receive what is promised”*
- v. Jesus is returning *“to save those who are eagerly waiting for him”*
 - 1. Again, those that are enduring are true believers and will be glorified when Jesus returns for them
 - 2. However, some will not endure and the Lord *“has no pleasure in [them]”*
 - a. As Paul said, *“...if we deny him, he also will deny us” (2 Timothy 2:12)*
 - i. The apostate will ultimately be denied by the Lord because he shrunk back from the truth
- vi. The writer includes himself as the *“we”* who are *“not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls”*
 - 1. Clearly, true believers are preserved by God and therefore endure