

The key to a successful Christian life is endurance/perseverance



A call to persevere. Hebrews 10:19-39

Therefore, brothers, since we have **confidence** to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, v19

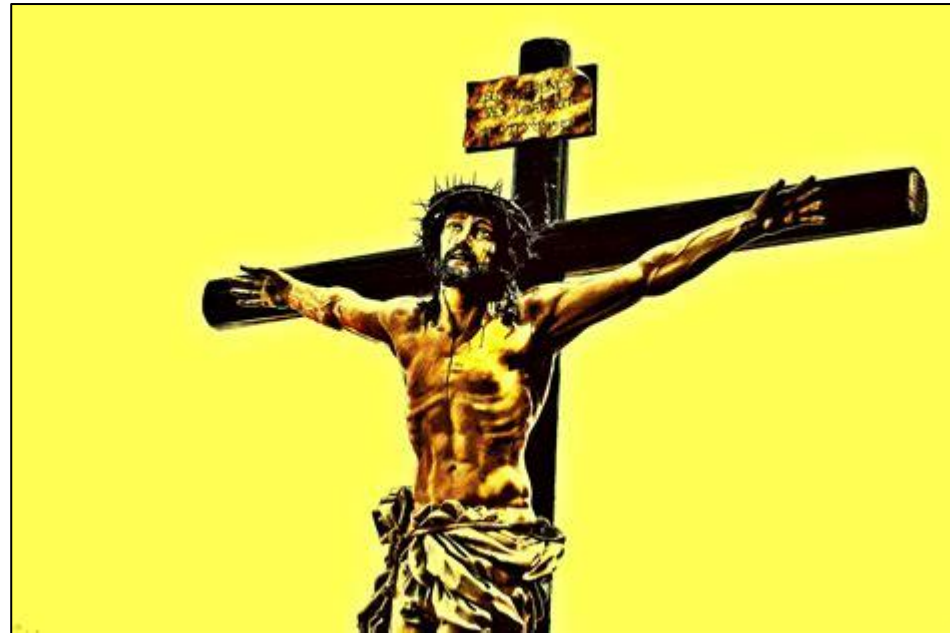
A different approach is possible with Jesus
We enter the heavenly tabernacle with sacrificial blood of our Saviour (Jesus – this is a reference to his humanity)



by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
v20

All has changed –a new and active way

He uses the Tabernacle parallel → curtain = his body. Both were torn.



and since we have a great(High) priest over the house of God, v21

Jesus is the high priest AND sacrifice all in one person

Over the family (house) of believers in God



Encouragements/ exhortations

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. v22

“Draw near” – we must use this privilege
(**the** cure for their discouragement)
– accepted and loved

Real cleansing is provided for worshippers
Come with sincerity. Such faith brings full assurance.

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and
having our bodies washed with pure water. v22



Full cleansing for hearts and conscience
An internal cure for sin's damage

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and
having our bodies washed with pure water. v22

This speaks of our external cleansing (cf. ritual washing)

It means a transformed lifestyle, a godly way of life.

We are saved from the guilt, pollution, and power of sin

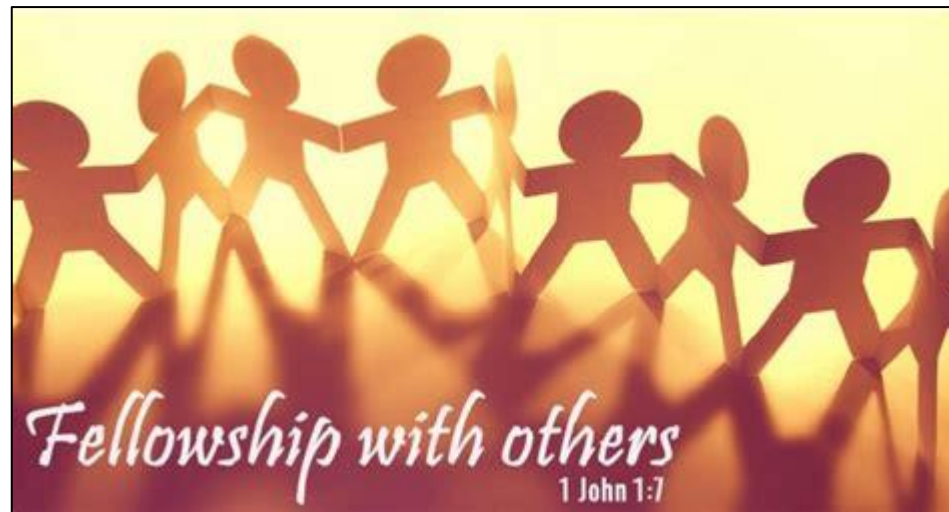


Encouragement

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. v23

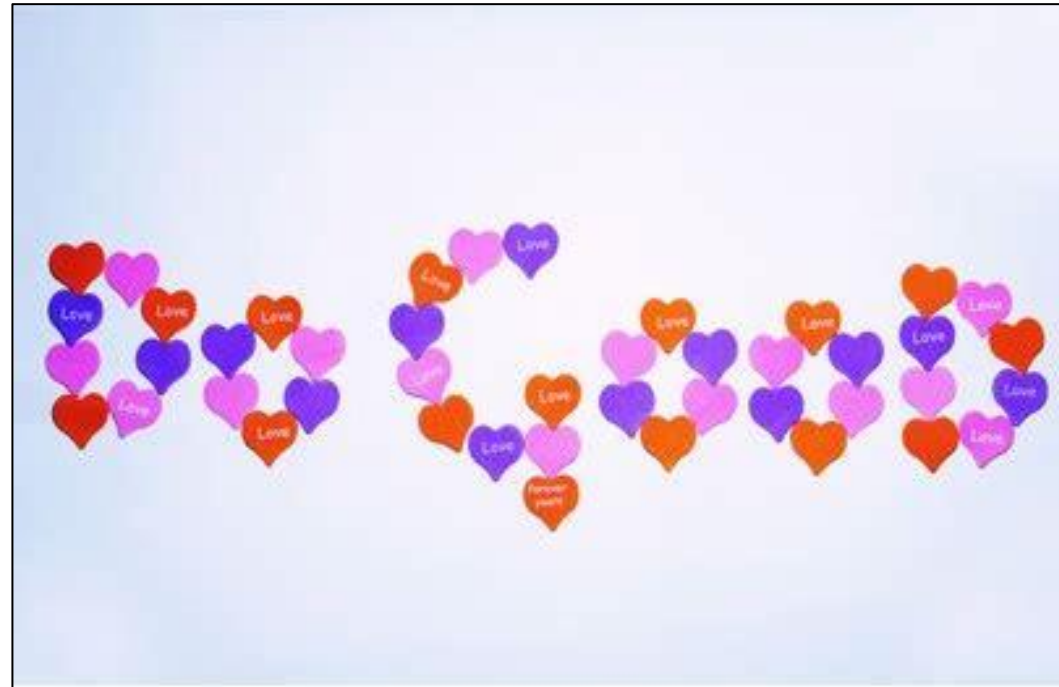
“Let us” – together! The importance of fellowship

Hold on to the truth we have openly confessed and joined with others.
God’s help is certain because he is FAITHFUL.



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. v24

Creative living and sharing
love and deeds



Danger! – a warning is needed.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. v25

Losing the heat? Cooling off?

Does our meeting together
strengthen faith?



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--**and all the more as you see the Day approaching.** v25

Now is an important time ..
The Day (of his coming as our deliverer)

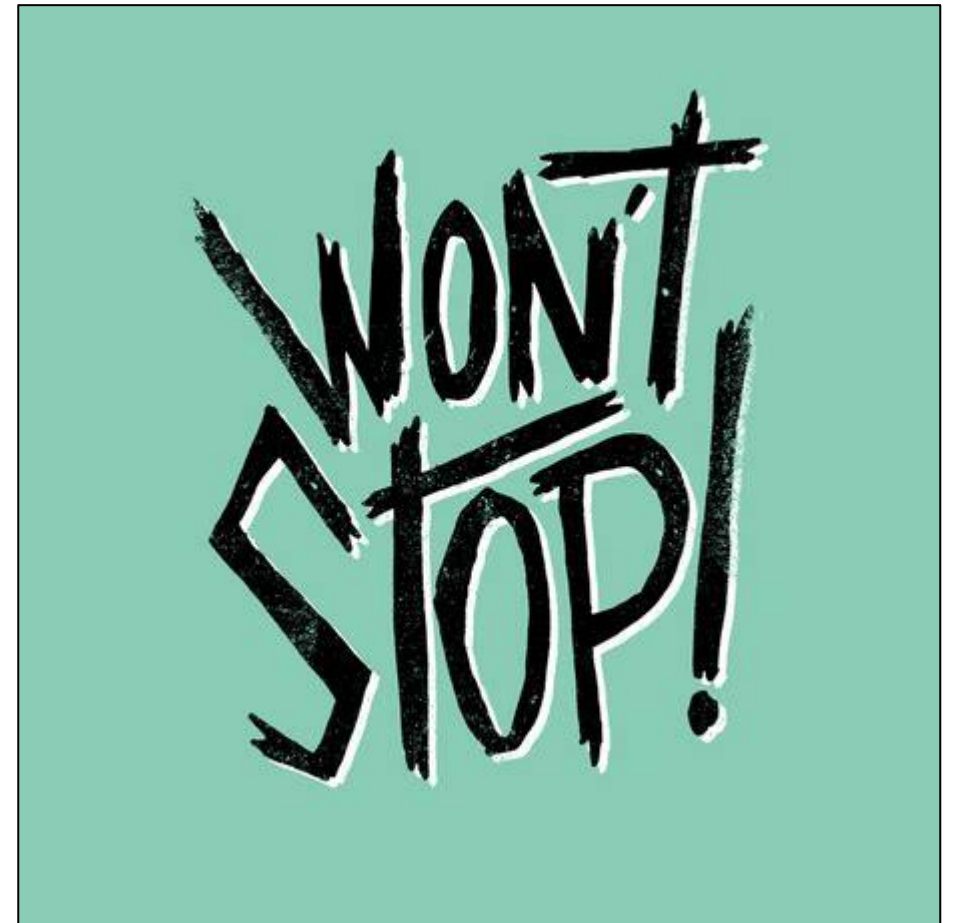
Were they getting discouraged because
it seemed a long time?



If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. v26-27

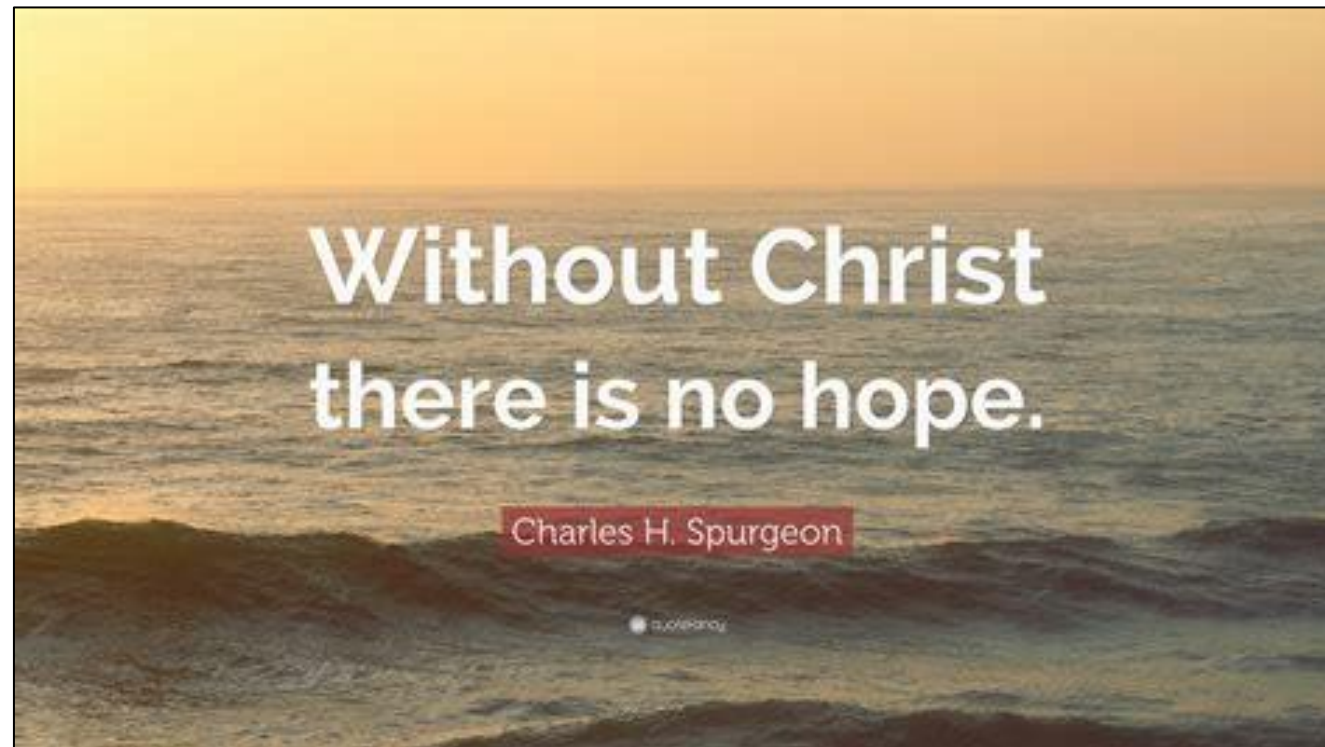
He gives a stern warning of the consequences of turning away. It is not a light choice you are considering.

“Keep on sinning” means a fixed purpose even when we know better.



If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left**, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. v26-27

No sacrifice is available. It is an unforgivable sin to reject the Saviour



If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, **but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.** v26-27

What a terrible judgement! This is the inevitable consequence of making yourselves God's enemies.



Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. v28

Consider the teaching given to Moses regarding murder .
There was the death penalty for a proven murder.



You decide what such a person deserves

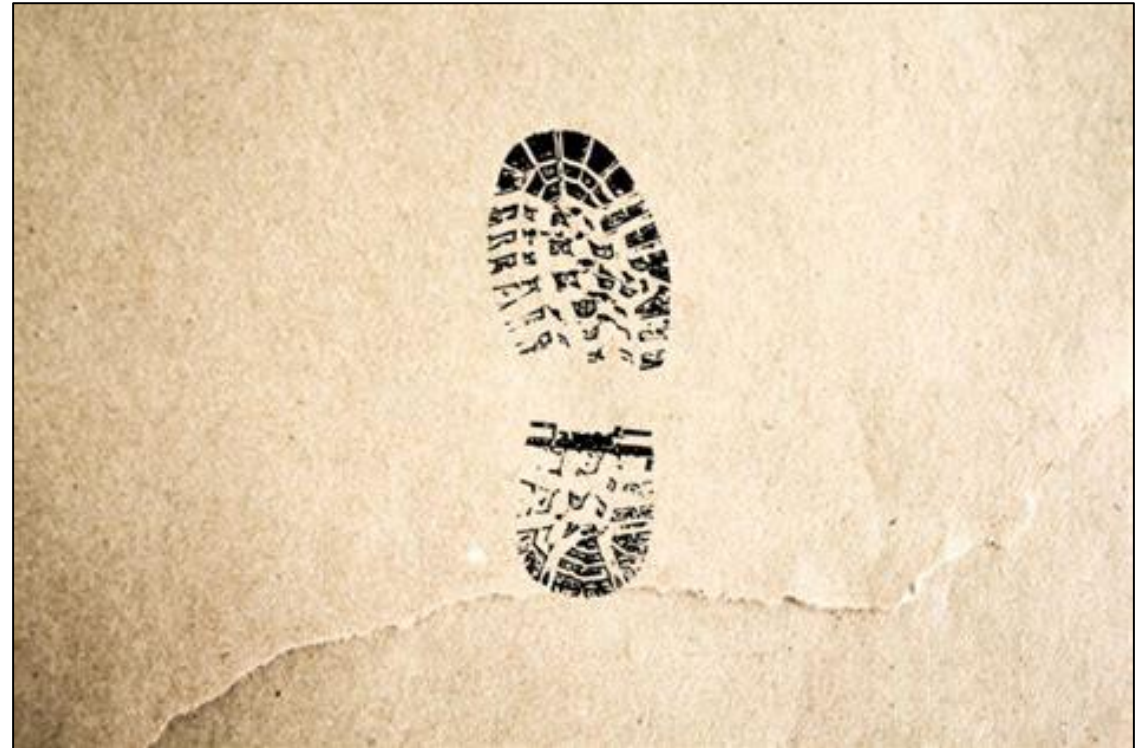
How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? v29

We are dealing with a much greater offence than murder!

...you decide?

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished **who has trampled the Son of God under foot**, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? v29

Someone who has ridiculed and rejected and put to shame the Son of God.



How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, **who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him**, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? v29

They have despised the atoning sacrifice provided under the New Covenant that marked them apart.

A P O S T A S Y

How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, **and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?** v29

And they resisted the gracious working of the Holy Spirit



A reminder: God will settle all debts

For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. v30-31

We are called to bless and leave them in God's hands.

Romans 12:19-20

God deals with his people too!

What a terrible prospect to have God as your enemy

"Living" – God is active now and there is no final escape

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. v32

The good old days!
It wasn't easy being a disciple of Jesus then.
But you held true to your convictions



Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. v33

The world's appalling treatment of believers
“insult and persecution” - verbal and physical
Fellowship support – you were prepared to stand with them



Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. v34

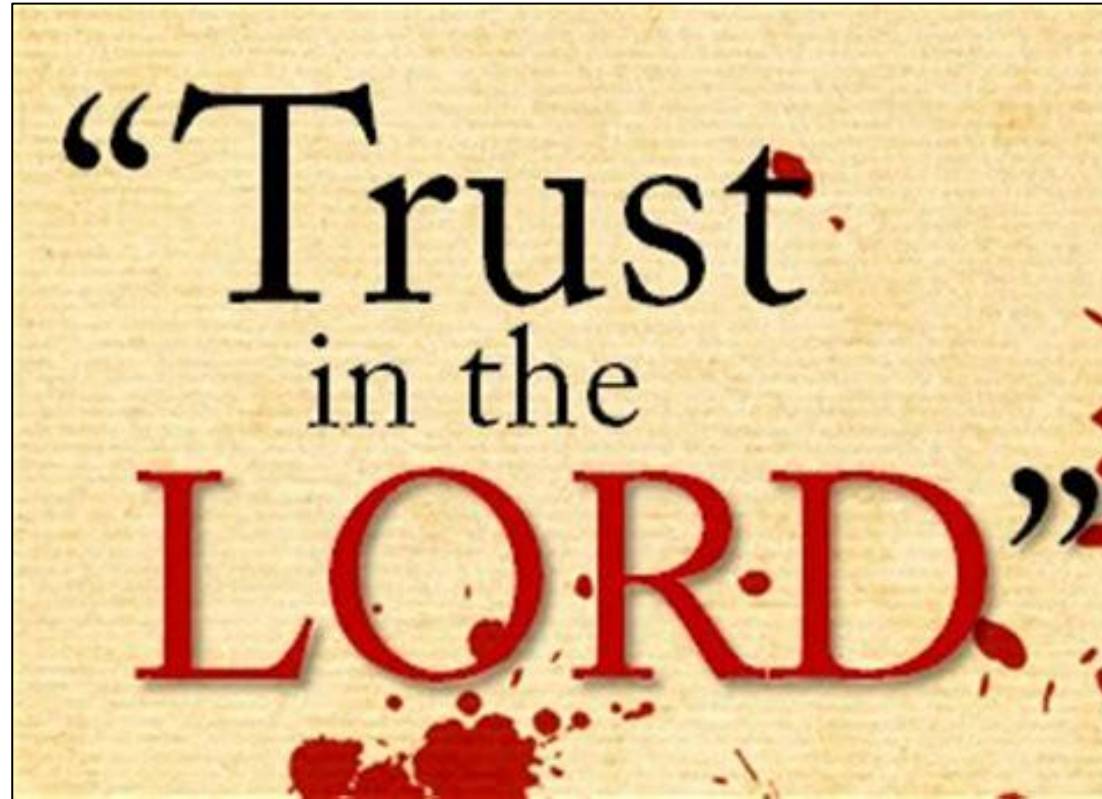
They helped imprisoned believers
They had been robbed – by mobs and by ‘official’ theft



Their real treasures are in heaven and the future earth

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. v35

Hold on! Great blessings are ultimately in store.



You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God,
you will receive what he has promised. v36

The one and only road to success
Trust – obey – (keep on repeating) - reward



For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. v37

This is a quote from
Habakkuk 2:3-4

The Lord's coming is certain
and will not be delayed,
but his timing is perfect.

How short is "a very little while"?



For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. **But my righteous one will live by faith.** v37-38

Believers have to 'believe'.

It's about **living** by faith

"Will live" can be taken as a promise

Each believer has been received as a righteous person belonging to HIM.



God doesn't want you to turn back

For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." v37-38

Your response is Your responsibility.



But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed,
but of those who believe and are saved. v39

Choose the right way.

“We” means you are included if you really believe.

Persevere and we cannot be ultimately lost.

Such people believe (trust) and are saved (his doing!)





IF YOU DO NOT
STAND FIRM
IN YOUR FAITH,
YOU WILL NOT
STAND AT ALL.

Isaiah 7:9, NIV