

PP Together!

Part 4-Hebrews 10:24-31

1/19-20/2019

A band called *Rubicon Cross* has written some interesting lyrics for the song, *Bleed with Me*
Hang on to your pews, this place is about to shake a bit

PP Music Video Clip

I think this has a better message than some Christian songs I've heard and they go along with
today's '*One another*' passage that we are about to look at

God declared in **Genesis 2:18** that it was not good for Adam to be alone, and it still is not good
for any of us to be alone

God's given us each other so we can find and enjoy community, but there is something that
happens too often in any church

It is a painful, grievous experience, and unfortunately, I've had too many of them

Some who claim to know Christ walk away from Him and out of the life of a church

I'm not talking about people who struggle with sin, but those who once confessed Christ, now
rejecting Him, was once a vibrant part of the church family, but leaves church altogether

Is there a way to help ensure that this doesn't happen?

I invite you to get your bibles open to the New Testament book of Hebrews chapter 10 (p 1007)

Go all the way to the end of the bible and then go back a few books...you'll find it

Hebrews was written to help people persevere in faith, for falling away was a problem in the
early church as it is in today's

PP "*Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away
from it.*" **Hebrews 2:1**

PP "*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to
fall away from the living God.*" **Hebrews 3:12**

PP "*For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to
the end.*" **Hebrews 3:14**

PP "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside
every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race
that is set before us*" **Hebrews 12:1**

PP "*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may
not grow weary or fainthearted.*" **Hebrews 12:3**

Yes, we must persevere in our faith until the day we die, but we aren't built to live our faith
alone

We need one another to endure this race to the end, and we see this in our passage today

**"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is
faithful."** **Hebrews 10:23**

Have you discovered in life how important hope is, for if you lose it, your life drifts

PP "*This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.*" **Hebrews 6:19**

Hope is an anchor, steadfastly helping us to persevere in the Christian walk

PP Hope is faith for your future because you are persuaded God has been faithful in your past

PP Corrie Ten Boom once said, "*Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God*"
But life has a way of smacking us around and our hope and faith have a tendency to suffer

Many years ago we went with my sister's family to Knoebles Park
 We were at a picnic area and there was a merry go round, so I got on it with Matthew (pretty young) while my brother in law spun us faster and faster
 Matthew's little hands started to slip off the bar and he started to panic, so I put my hands over his and helped him hold on until we were done spinning
 When life goes crazy, and your trust and faith in God begins to slip, how do you hold on?
 Certainly we have a God Who rides the merry go round of life with us, holding us fast, **PP**
"Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" Hebrews 12:2
 He will help us *'hold fast'*, but in the modern church, and, in my opinion, a great many here at our church, we are neglecting how Jesus actually helps us hold fast

And we come to it in Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

PP 1-Stir up

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" 10:24

Like most families, ours is no exception when it comes to misplacing or losing things
 When I lose something, there are two things I do immediately, pray and of course, search
 Recently I couldn't find my wallet and searched house and truck, more than once...but to no avail
 Finally, I did what I always end up doing...I just sat down and began to think, mentally retracing my steps, pondering where I did and did not look
 Sure enough, I thought of a storage compartment in the truck I didn't recall checking...went down to the truck and there it was...thank you Lord!!

We think through problems and solutions, through school assignments, through major decisions, through relational struggles, but do we ever take time to think, to *'consider'* how to help someone love and live in a way that honors Jesus?

Do we really stop and *think* about what we can to help someone in their walk with Christ?

When you read this what comes to mind? ***'how to stir up one another to love and good works'***

Our minds are so active, so imaginative, with all kinds of associations to words

I can confidently tell you what was in the author of Hebrews mind when he used the Greek word we translate *'stir up'*

PP *'stir up'* is one Greek word (*paroxysmos*) and that might tell you a little right there

Perhaps some synonyms: spasm, convulsion, seizure, outburst, outbreak

PP The idea here is to strongly spur, provoke, stir up someone to action, in short to *motivate*

What are we to motivate each other to do?...***'stir up one another to love and good works.'* 10:24**

Do you want a life of deep purpose and fulfillment?

Spend time each day considering how to help a fellow Christian love and live for Christ

Forget pursuing fame, wealth and security, they simply cannot satisfy what you were made for

It is more satisfying for one person to tell me that I helped them grow spiritually than a hundred people telling me nice sermon

Christian, when Jesus saved you, He gave you a new nature, and His Spirit dwells in you, and He

turned your compass needle outward to others!
 Is there someone you know who claims to be a Christian, but is not acting that way, whose faith is struggling?
 Then **'consider how to stir up'** that person, **'to love and good works'**

PP 2-Meet together

I've observed too often that when people drift away from Christ, they wander away from church
 One of the major parts of being a pastor or elder is leaving the 99 to pursue the 1 and inviting them back into the community life of the church and back to their faith

Hebrews continues to tell us how to help each other persevere in our faith to the end: **"not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some" 10:25a**

I was often taught that this means you can never miss church...it's doors are open, you be there
 All my younger years I was in church Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday
 But I don't think the author of Hebrews has this meaning in mind by **'meet together'**
 You can go to church every opportunity available and miss the point of Hebrew's exhortation
 Hebrews is telling us to not neglect meeting together so we can grow in our love for each other, and increase our help with each other to endure in our faith

So let's ask ourselves a some questions and try our best to be honest

Are you involved in relationships in our church, in addition to your own family of course?

Are you involved in a Life Group in our church and growing closer to those friends?

Is there anyone intentionally, actively, helping you to spiritually grow?

Is there anyone other than your spouse that you've opened the curtains of your private life with?

Someone whom you've shared your deeper struggles and victories with, that you've given permission to call you out when they see you spiritually struggling?

Are you functioning in that way with anyone else?

The lesson of Hebrews is we need one another, and we must come together

Yes, you can read your bible and pray just fine on your own, but if you exist in a private vacuum as a believer, you will not find significant spiritual growth happening

We all need someone to come alongside and help, to encourage us to hold fast to our hope

Listen to me read an email I received this last week, that I share with her permission

"I've been studying the book of Psalms for my daily devotions. The theme that has been sticking out to me as I've been reading the Psalms has been about Friendship and Love. The friendship that David had with the Lord, I've been seeking after that same friendship for about three years now. God finally answered that pray for me through the Psalms that David wrote. It's amazing that I've been praying to have a closer relationship with God and I've found my answer reading his word. As I have become a part of Cornerstone, and a part of the worship team, the love that I've received from the team has been beyond amazing. I have experienced the Love that Jesus is commanding in John 13:34-35 and my prayer is that I will return that same love to my fellow brothers and sisters at Cornerstone as my love for the Lord continues to grow each day."

PP 3-Encourage one another

“but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” 10:25

I don't if you know this about me, but I absolutely love snow, and lots of it
Growing up outside of Syracuse, my dad had an old crank-start Allis Chalmers tractor with a
manual blade on the front and the job of us kids was to stand on that blade so it wouldn't
ride up on the snow and ice...dangerous

We were out in one blizzard doing our long 250 foot driveway when my dad backed up too close
to the ditch along the rode, and we went flying, and the tractor was stuck
Eventually, the town grader came by plowing the road and saw our dilemma, stopped and
hooked up a chain and pulled that tractor out

That event in my childhood illustrates the meaning of **PP 'encouraging'**, which is to come
alongside someone, and put your shoulder to the wheel of their life and push

We need this because sin is subtle, we often cannot see its effects on us

**PP “But exhort (encourage) one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of
you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:13**

But how we do encourage each other? How do we stir one another up to love and good works?

PP 1-We must relive past endurances

***“But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle
with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction” 10:32-33***

'recall' means to reconstruct and relive in your mind

Can you remember a moment in your life where you were humiliated publicly?

Perhaps you recall that and you feel yourself shudder automatically turning away from it again

This is the power of **recall** as you relive experiences where you endured hard times...there is
power to hold fast knowing you did, and hope for your future that you can do it again

PP 2-We must have a community mindset with each other

“and sometimes being partners with those so treated.” 10:32-33

There are times when we can not go it alone...we need to come together and help each other

The community mindset is one where we know that we are responsible for each other

Responsible puts it into a whole nother level...not a privilege, a responsibility

PP 3-We must have compassion for each other

***“For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your
property” Hebrews 10:34***

Christians were imprisoned simply because they identified with Christ, and other Christians
brought them food and clothing because Roman prisons didn't provide them

What do you think would happen to those who showed compassion...they would suffer as well
How could they joyfully accept this?

PP 4-We must keep our eyes on the finish line

“since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.” 10:34-36

Christian brothers and sisters, ***“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” 10:24-25***

Encourage each other even more as that day when Christ will come for us, or we pass from this life and go to Him

Let us help each other hold fast to our confession of hope, our faith, that we persevere to the end

PP *“Save me from myself, I can't make it on my own; Come join the fight, and together we'll be strong; Best of friends, true champions will take on any challenge; A special breed, we're born to lead, this blood is our alliance; Self-sacrifice is the price, Lay down your life, and Bleed with me, I will guarantee If you stand with me You'll forever be my brother; Side by side, We live or die; For honor and for pride, Tonight, come on and bleed with me”*

Amen

Pray