

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." <sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

<sup>32</sup> But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, <sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. <sup>34</sup> For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. <sup>35</sup> Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

- Hebrews 10:19-39 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

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, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, 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.

- Hebrews 10:32-36 (English Standard Version)

"Hilarion to his sister Alis, many greetings, also to my lady Berous and Apolloniarion.

Know that I am still in Alexandria; and do not worry if they wholly set out, I am staying in Alexandria. I ask you and entreat you, take care of the child, and if I receive my pay soon, I will send it up to you. Above all, if you bear a child and it is male, let it be; if it is female, cast it out. You have told Aphrodisias, 'Do not forget me.' But how can I forget you? Thus I'm asking you not to worry."

The 29th year of Caesar, Pauni 23.  
(address on the outside) Hilarion to Alis, deliver.  
- The Letter from Hilarion

# Sermon Outline

**Faith, Hope, and Love**  
Hebrews 10:19-39

*Consider Jesus*  
Brad Anderson

*Confidence is a precious gift...* (Hebrews 10:19-21, 35)

**What will we do with the precious gift of confidence?  
Will we hold onto it like a precious gift or  
will we throw it away like a piece of garbage?**

**Will we hold onto it like a precious gift?** (Hebrews 10:19-25, 32-34, 39)

- What would it look like to hold onto the precious gift of confidence "today"?
  - Let us draw near in faith... (Hebrews 10:22)
  - Let us hold fast in hope... (Hebrews 10:23)
  - Let us care for one another in love... (Hebrews 10:24-25)

**Will we throw it away like a piece of garbage?** (Hebrews 10:26-31, 35-38)

- What are the dangers of throwing away our confidence like a piece of garbage "today"?
  - A warning against deliberate sin... (Hebrews 10:26a)
  - A warning against possible apostasy... (Hebrews 10:26-31)
  - A warning against living unfaithfully... (Hebrews 10:35-38)

**Reflection Questions** (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- How did you meet your closest friend? Describe the event, or the moment.
- Based on Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:19-20; 9:1-10:18) and priesthood (Hebrews 9:21; 7:1-8:13), what attitudes and actions follow? Note the three "let us" statements in Hebrews 10:22-25. What does each one mean? What incentives are given?
- How does Hebrews 10:19-25 parallel Hebrews 4:14-16? Why might the author need to stress this to these readers?
- If they habitually reject Christ in favor of sin, what do they forfeit (Hebrews 10:26; Hebrews 3:14; Hebrews 6:4-6)?
- Why is the fate not so unexpected (Hebrews 10:28-29; Deuteronomy 17:2-6)?
- In rejecting Christ, of what three grievous sins would they be guilty? With what consequence (Hebrews 10:31)? What false security would make such a warning necessary (Hebrews 4:12-13; Hebrews 6:8)?
- After such a dire warning, how does the author appeal to previous testing, present action, and future events – all to encourage the Hebrews (Hebrews 10:32-39)? Which appeal do you find persuasive?
- How have you seen the difference between someone assured of their salvation (Hebrews 10:19-25) and someone presumptuous about it (Hebrews 10:25-31)? How can you develop confidence without presumption?
- How does the Second Coming help you to "keep on"?