

**The Greater Sacrifice
(Chapter 10)**

Christianity Has
-The Greater Mediator
-The Greater Covenant

Since...

-We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus

-We have a great high priest over the house of God

Through the Curtain

-Heb 6:19; 9:3

Why this exhortation is such a big deal

- (1) **Trampled** underfoot the Son of God
- (2) **Profaned** the blood of the covenant
- (3) **Outraged** the Spirit of grace

"Go on Sinning"

Blasphemy of the Spirit

-Mt 12:22-32
-Mk 3:22-30
-Lk 12:8-10

Sin that Leads to Death

-1Jn 5:16-17

Impossible...to Restore

-Heb 6:4-6

Forgiveness of Sins if We Confess

-1Jn 1:8-9

There can be NO neutrality in our relationship with Jesus

-Mt 7:13-14

There should be NO expectation to escape eternal destruction if we reject the Son.

-Heb 2:1-3

Better: A Study of Hebrews - Hebrews 10:19-39

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The Greater Covenant (Chapters 8 to 10)

¹⁹**Therefore** brothers, since we have **confidence** to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us **through the curtain**, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a **great priest** over the house of God, ²²**let us draw near** ⁽¹⁾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**. ²³**Let us hold fast** ⁽²⁾the **confession of our hope** without wavering, for **he who promised is faithful**. ²⁴And **let us** ⁽³⁾**consider how to stir up one another to love and good works**, ²⁵**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. <- What does it mean to neglect meeting together?

Dt 17:6; 19:15

²⁶**For** if we **go on sinning deliberately** after **receiving the knowledge of the truth**, there **no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, ²⁷**but a fearful expectation of judgment**, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸**Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses**. ²⁹**How much worse punishment**, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has **trampled underfoot the Son of God**, and has **profaned** ⁽¹⁾the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **outraged** ⁽²⁾the Spirit of grace? ⁽³⁾³⁰For we know him who said, "**Vengeance is mine; I will repay.**" And again, "**The Lord will judge his people.**" ³¹**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** <- Dt 32:35-36;

Rom 12:19

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

Isa 26:20; Hab 2:3-4

Let us...

(1) Draw Near

Not possible under the old covenant

-Rom 5:1-5

-Eph 2:11-22

- "in full assurance"

-Ties in with "confidence"

- "hearts sprinkled clean"

-Heb 9:18-22

-Ex 24:8

- "washed with pure water"

Baptism

-Outward sign of an inward cleansing

-Rom 6:1-4

-1Pe 3:21

(2) Hold Fast

The entire point of this letter

- 3:6 - Confidence
- 3:14 - Commitment
- 4:14 - Confession

-Confession / Hope
3:6; 6:11, 18; 7:19

-Hope = Confidence

(3) Consider How

Work with each other to hold fast.

Recall the Former Days...

He reminds them of their past as a way of expressing confidence in their future.

-They've endured much since their conversion

-They need more endurance to receive the "great reward" that has been promised

Compare 6:9-12

Hebrews Chapter 10 - Questions for Discussion

How do we enter “the Most Holy Place?” With what attitude do we enter? (v. 19)

What three things does the writer exhort these Christians to do? (vv. 22-25)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does it practically mean to neglect meeting together? What is “the Day?” (v. 25)

If we sin willfully, what do we have to look forward to? (vv. 26-27; Rom 6)

What happened to those who rejected the word of Moses? (v. 28)

Those who sin willfully are guilty of what three things? (vv. 29-31)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why is it “a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God?” (v. 31)

What are the “former days” spoken of in Heb 10:32?

Teacher's Notes

Confidence / High Priest

Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV)

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Through the Curtain

Hebrews 6:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

Hebrews 9:3 (ESV)

³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,

“hearts sprinkled clean”

Hebrews 9:18–22 (ESV)

¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Exodus 24:8 (ESV)

⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

“washed with pure water”

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried

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therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

1 Peter 3:21 (ESV)

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Hold Fast

CONFIDENCE

Hebrews 3:6 (ESV)

⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

COMMITMENT

Hebrews 3:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

CONFESSION

Hebrews 4:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Confession of our Hope

Hebrews 3:6 (ESV)

⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Hebrews 6:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end,

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Hebrews 6:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Hebrews 7:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Go on Sinning

Matthew 12:22–32 (ESV)

²² Then a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” ²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Mark 3:22–30 (ESV)

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” ²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸ “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has

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forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — ³⁰ for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Luke 12:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹ but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. ¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

There can be NO neutrality in our relationship with Jesus (Mt 7:13-14)

KEY QUESTIONS

- What does “blasphemes against the Holy Spirit” mean? Why is it unpardonable?
- What is the chief offense against the Spirit?
- Why can those who speak against the Son of Man be forgiven, but not against the Spirit?
- What happens if we “accidentally” commit this sin?

SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH

1 John 5:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶ If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷ All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

CONTINUING TO CRUCIFY / CONTINUING TO SIN

Hebrews 6:4–6 (ESV)

⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

CONVICT MEN OF SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUDGMENT / GLORIFY CHRIST

John 16:8–14 (ESV)

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning

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righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS IF WE CONFESS

1 John 1:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

TWO WAYS / GATES

Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV)

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Set Aside the Law of Moses

Deuteronomy 17:6 (ESV)

⁶ On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

Vengeance is Mine

Deuteronomy 32:35–36 (ESV)

³⁵ Vengeance is mine, and recompense,
for the time when their foot shall slip;
for the day of their calamity is at hand,
and their doom comes swiftly.’
³⁶ For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone

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and there is none remaining, bond or free.

Romans 12:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Recall Your Former Days

Hebrews 6:9–12 (ESV)

⁹ Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. ¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Isaiah 26:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,
and shut your doors behind you;
hide yourselves for a little while
until the fury has passed by.

Habakkuk 2:3–4 (ESV)

³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time;
it hastens to the end—it will not lie.
If it seems slow, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

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Illustration: Greatest

We like to argue about the concept of “Greatest.” This could be greatest movie, greatest football player, greatest president, greatest generation. Even the apostles argued about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mark 9:33-34).

In Hebrews, the author is passionately arguing that Christianity is the “Greatest” in every conceivable way. Having completed his arguments about Christianity having the Greater Mediator and Greater Covenant, the writer then offers three exhortations regarding what we should do with knowledge that this is the best way.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV)

¹⁹ **Therefore**, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **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. ²³ **Let us hold fast** the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And **let us consider** how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

I. Draw Near

Hebrews 10:22 (ESV)

²² **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.**

1 Peter 3:21–22 (ESV)

²¹ **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,** ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Ephesians 2:11–22 (ESV)

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² **remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.** ¹³ **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵

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by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.¹⁸ **For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.**¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** ² **Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

What are we doing with this access? What are we doing to draw near?

Prayer

Psalm 145:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ **The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

Proverbs 15:29 (ESV)

²⁹ **The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.**

Ephesians 6:16–20 (ESV)

¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ **praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,**¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2–4 (ESV)

² **Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.** ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the

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mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Romans 8:26 (ESV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.**

Hebrews 4:14–16 (ESV)

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Study

John 14:15–24 (ESV)

¹⁵ **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.** ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ **Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."** ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, **"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."** ²⁴

Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ **But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

II. Hold Fast

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Illustration: Discussion with Kate after she became a Christian

Every Christian will face the temptation to let go of their faith. This can come from trials and suffering. This can come from external forces that are promoting a different way. This can come from unanswered questions and doubts.

Hebrews 10:32–36 (ESV)

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

James 1:12 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

III. Consider How

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

We have to help each other to Draw Near and Hold Fast! Part of this is making being part of the assembly a Priority and a Habit in our lives? We are stronger together! Together we can be recharged.

Hebrews 3:12–14 (ESV)

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¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.