

Enduring to the End

Hebrews 10:32-39



Review of 10:26-31

- The nature of apostasy (26a-b)
 - It involves knowing the truth (26b)
 - It involves rejecting the truth (26a)
- To abandon Christ is to abandon the only hope of salvation (26c)
- Rejecting Christ brings certain destruction (27)
- Apostasy is the most serious of sins (28-29)
- Judgment will be certain and terrifying (30-31)

Reflecting on Events of the Past (32-35)

- They had endured a great conflict of sufferings (32-34)
- They were subjected to public ridicule and tribulations (33a)

“The word rendered [tribulations] suggests that acts of violence accompanied the verbal abuse they had received. These acts may have included physical cruelty associated with imprisonment, beatings, and deprivation.” - Peter O’Brien

Reflecting on Events of the Past (32-35)

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- They were subjected to public ridicule and tribulations (33a)
- They gave firm support to others being persecuted (33b)

“When some of their number were imprisoned, the others did not shrink from visiting them, although in this way they ran the risk of being imprisoned themselves... Prisoners who had no means of their own were liable to starve unless their friends brought them food and whatever other form of help they required. Throughout the whole age of imperial persecution of the church the visiting of friends who were in prison was a regular, though dangerous duty of Christian charity.” - F.F. Bruce

Reflecting on Events of the Past (32-35)

- They had endured a great conflict of sufferings (32-34)
- They were subjected to public ridicule and tribulations (33a)
- They gave firm support to others being persecuted (33b)
 - They put themselves at risk by caring for prisoners (34a)
 - They accepted the illegal seizure of their property with joy (34b)
 - They were motivated by the hope of heaven (34c)
- The bottom line: after having endured so much, don't throw away the promise of entering God's presence! (35)

Persevere and Receive what God has Promised (36-39)

- A plea to endure to the end (36)
- Arguments from Scripture (37-38)
- A concluding word of encouragement: continue walking by faith (39)

Implications & Application

1. Past things we have done in the name of Christ, no matter how great, do not constitute proof that we are in Christ
2. We must endure to the end no matter what challenges or hardships we face
3. Perseverance is God's doing; He has sealed us by His Spirit
4. Until Christ returns, we must walk by faith