

Our Sacred Commitment

TEXT: Hebrews 10:19-39; vs. 35-39

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

NOT THE GIVING UP KIND --→ **THE TALE OF TWO SHIPS**

INTRODUCTION

We must be more than “fair weather” saints. (2-3 Billion) The ebb and flows of our humanity necessitate strong conviction. We will feel up and then feel down, but faithfulness to God is possible only if we are COMMITTED.—NO TURNING BACK -RESOLVE-UNREVISITED-settled in opinion, decided→ **Our Commitment to Christ is most sacred**

The Tenacity of My Commitment to Christ will depend on how I value my **faith, Christ's Sacrifice, & my soul.**

1. The Value of My Faith v. 19-25

Heb 10:19 ¶ *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

“MOST HOLY FAITH

Jude 1:20 *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*

2. The Value of Christ's Sacrifice Vs. 26-29

Heb 10: 26 *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?*

3. The Value of my Soul Vs. 30-31

Heb. 10:30 *For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

What is my price? If It Has a Price, It Can Be Bought.

Mt 16:26 *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

CONCLUSION – Vs. 32-34—This is NO TIME FOR TURNING BANK BUT RUNNING HARD AFTER GOD! You've come too far!

Heb 10:32 *But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*

THE TALE OF TWO SHIPS

On Sept 16, 1620 2 ships set sail from Plymouth England, The **Speedwell** and the **Mayflower**. The Speedwell encountered much difficulty as they began their journey springing many leaks in the ship. So when the 2 ships went to Port in Plymouth England, the Speedwell decided to go no further and 42 passengers from the Speedwell joined the 60 passengers and 30 crew members aboard the Mayflower.

Of the 102 passengers on board the Mayflower the majority were devout Christians. They were coming to America to shake loose from the bonds of the church of England so they could worship God as they believed scriptures taught.

And with great excitement and expectations that set sail for a new land... It wasn't long before the trip became difficult for several reasons, as noted by William Bradford an historian on the Mayflower, who would later become Governor of the colony for 33 years..

- Many of the passengers became sea sick as huge waves would crash over the deck of the ship...
- The nights were cold, damp and dark.
- And to make matters worse one of the crew, a very large man would constantly curse and abuse those who were sick... saying he was going to throw them overboard and steal all of their possessions.
- They encountered many fierce storms which shook the ship with tremendous force. So fierce that many times they could not even keep the sail out and the force of the wind eventually cracked and bowed the main beams when they had just went over the half way point across the Atlantic.
- And although the passengers and crew wanted to turn back, Christopher Jones, the ships Master, assured all the vessel was "strong and firm under water." He ordered the beam to be secured. It was hoisted into place by a great iron screw that, fortunately, the Pilgrims brought out of Holland.
- AND Upon raising the beam, they

"committed themselves to the will of God and resolved to proceed."

These 100 people; cold, wet -- on a wooden ship in the middle of the ocean -- put their hope, trust and lives into the hands of God.

- The battered ship finally came within sight of Cape Cod on November 19, 1620. **Two had died at sea and two had given birth.**
- William Bradford writes, "AFTER LONG BEATINGS AT SEA THEY FELL WITH THAT LAND WHICH IS CALLED CAPE COD; AND THEY WERE NOT A LITTLE JOYFUL..."

Before going ashore they decided to write a document know as the Mayflower Compact. At the heart of the compact lay an undisputed conviction that God must be at the center of all law and order and the law without a moral base is really no law at all.

The day the Pilgrims signed the May Flower Compact, according to William Bradford, "they came to anchor in the Bay, which was a good harbor...and they blessed the God of Heaven, who brought them over the fast and furious ocean... and a sea of trouble. And they read the following from the Geneva Bible

"LET THEM, THEREFORE PRAISE THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS GOOD AND HIS MERCIES ENDURE FOREVER."

RESOLVE-ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation was taken to Abraham Lincoln at noon on January 1, 1863. Twice the president picked up his pen to sign it, and twice he laid it down. Turning to Secretary of State William Seward, he said, "I have been shaking hands since 9:00 this morning, and my right arm is almost paralyzed. If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it. If my hand trembles when I sign the proclamation, all who examine the document hereafter will say, 'He hesitated.'"

The president then took up the pen again and slowly but firmly wrote, "Abraham Lincoln."

WITH STEADY HAND **THIS IS MY COMMITMENT:** Ps 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.