

Anonymous Letter to the Christian Community in Rome – Part 3 (c. 63–64)

Hebrews 10:19–13:25

Hold Fast the Confession of Our Hope

10:19 Therefore, brothers, *since we* have confidence for the entrance into the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,
 20 *by the* new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh,
 21 and *since we have* a great priest over the house of God,
 22 let us approach with a true heart in the full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 23 Let us hold fast to the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for the one who promised *is* faithful.
 24 And let us think about how to stir one another up to love and good works,
 25 not abandoning our meeting together, as *is* the habit of some, but encouraging *each other*, and by so much more as you see the day drawing near.

Fourth Warning—The Danger of Rejecting Christ’s Sacrifice

26 For *if* we keep on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment and a fury of fire that is about to consume the adversaries.
 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*.
 29 How much worse punishment do you think the person will be considered worthy of who treats with disdain the Son of God and who considers ordinary the blood of the covenant by which he was made holy and who insults the Spirit of grace?
 30 For we know the one who said,

“Vengeance *is* mine, I will repay,” [\[Deut 32:35a\]](#)

and again,

“The Lord will judge his people.” [\[Deut 32:36a\]](#) (LXX); cf. [Ps 135:14](#) (LXX 134:14)]

31 *It is* a terrifying *thing* to fall into the hands of the living God.
 32 But remember the former days in which, *after you* were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings,
 33 sometimes being publicly exposed both to insults and to afflictions, and sometimes becoming sharers with those who were treated in this way.
 34 For you both sympathized with the prisoners and put up with the seizure of your belongings with joy *because you* knew that you yourselves had a better and permanent possession.
 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has great reward.
 36 For you have need of endurance, in order that *after you* have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.
 37 For yet

“a very, very little *while*, [\[Isa 26:20\]](#) (LXX)
and the one who is coming will come and will not delay.

38 But my righteous one will live by faith,
 and if he shrinks back, my soul is not well pleased with him.” [\[Hab 2:3–4\]](#)

39 But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but among those who have faith to the preservation of *our* souls.

Old Testament Examples of People Who Lived “By Faith”

11:1 Now faith is the realization of what is hoped for, the proof of things not seen.
 2 For by this the people of old were approved.
 3 By faith we understand the worlds were created by the word of God, in order that what is seen did not come into existence from what is visible.
 4 By faith Abel offered to God a greater sacrifice than Cain, by which he was approved that he was righteous, *because* God approved *him* for his gifts, and through it he still speaks, *although he* is dead.
 5 By faith Enoch was taken up, so that he did not experience death, and he was not found, because God took him up. For before his removal, he had been approved as having been pleasing to God.
 6 Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and is a rewarder of those who seek him.
 7 By faith Noah, having been warned about things not yet seen, out of reverence constructed an ark for the deliverance of his family, by which he pronounced sentence on the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
 8 By faith Abraham, *when he* was called, obeyed to go out to a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance, and he went

out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he lived in the land of promise as a stranger, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the fellow heirs of the same promise.

10 For he was expecting the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder *is* God.

11 By faith also, with Sarah, he received the ability to procreate even past the normal age, because he regarded the one who had promised *to be* faithful.

12 And therefore these were fathered from one man, and *he* being as good as dead, as the stars of heaven in number and like the innumerable sand by the shore of the sea. [cf. [Gen 22:17](#) (LXX)]

13 These all died in faith without receiving the promises, but seeing them from a distance and welcoming *them*, and admitting that they were strangers and temporary residents on the earth.

14 For those who say such *things* make clear that they are seeking a homeland.

15 And if they remember that *land* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But now they aspire to a better *land*, that is, a heavenly *one*. Therefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, *when he* was tested, offered Isaac, and the one who received the promises was ready to offer his one and only *son*,

18 with reference to whom it was said, “In Isaac your descendants will be named,” [[Gen 21:12](#) (LXX)]

19 having reasoned that God *was* able even to raise *him* from the dead, from which he received him back also as a symbol.

20 By faith also Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things that were going to happen.

21 By faith Jacob, *as he* was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff. [[Gen 47:31](#) (LXX)]

22 By faith Joseph, *as he* was dying, mentioned about the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave instructions about his bones.

23 By faith Moses, *when he* was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw the child *was* handsome, and they were not afraid of the edict of the king.

24 By faith Moses, *when he* was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,

25 choosing instead to be mistreated with the people of God *rather* than to experience the transitory enjoyment of sin,

26 considering reproach endured for the sake of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the anger of the king, for he persevered *as if he* saw the invisible one.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, in order that the one who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

29 By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land; the Egyptians, when they made the attempt, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down *after they* had been marched around for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, *because she* welcomed the spies in peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel and the prophets,

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, accomplished justice, obtained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions,

34 extinguished the effectiveness of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong from weakness, became mighty in battle, put to flight enemy battle lines.

35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. But others were tortured, not accepting release, in order that they might gain a better resurrection.

36 And others experienced mocking and flogging, and in addition bonds and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by murder with a sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, impoverished, afflicted, mistreated,

38 of whom the world was not worthy, wandering about on deserts and mountains and in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 And *although they* all were approved through their faith, they did not receive what was promised,

40 *because* God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

Running to Win

12:1 Therefore, *since* we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, putting aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider the one who endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary in your souls *and* give up.

The Lord’s Discipline/Training

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of *shedding your* blood *as you* struggle against sin.

5 And have you completely forgotten the exhortation which instructs you as sons?

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
or give up *when you* are corrected by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves,
and punishes every son whom he accepts.” [[Prov 3:11–12](#) (LXX^A)]

7 Endure *it* for discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. For what son *is there* whom a father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, in which all *legitimate sons* have become participants, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had our earthly fathers who disciplined *us*, and we respected *them*. Will we not much rather subject ourselves to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they disciplined *us* for a few days according to what seemed *appropriate* to them, but he *does so* for our benefit, in order that we can have a share in his holiness.

11 Now all discipline seems for the moment not to be joyful but painful, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who are trained by it.

12 Therefore strengthen your slackened hands and your weakened knees, [[Isa 35:3](#)]

13 and make straight paths for your feet, [[Prov 4:26](#) (LXX)] so that what is lame will not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

Dos and Don’ts of the Race

14 Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

15 Take care *that* no one falls short of the grace of God; *that* no one growing up *like* a root of bitterness causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

16 *that* no one *be* a sexually immoral or totally worldly *person* like Esau, who for one meal traded his own birthright.

17 For you know that also afterwards, *when he* wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he did not find an occasion for repentance, although he sought it with tears.

Fifth Warning—Do Not Refuse God’s Son

18 For you have not come to something that can be touched, and to a burning fire, and to darkness, and to gloom, and to a whirlwind,

19 and to the noise of a trumpet, and to the sound of words which those who heard begged *that not another* word be spoken to them.

20 For they could not endure what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” [[Exod 19:12–13](#)]

21 And the spectacle was so terrifying *that* Moses said, “I am terrified and trembling.” [cf. [Deut 9:19a](#) (LXX)]

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to tens of thousands of angels, to the festal gathering

23 and assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of righteous *people* made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks better than Abel’s *does*.

25 Watch out that you do not refuse the one who is speaking! For if those did not escape *when they* refused the one who warned *them* on earth, much less *will we escape, if we* reject the *one who warns* from heaven,

26 whose voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, saying,

“Yet once *more* I will shake not only the earth but also heaven.” [[Hag 2:6](#) (LXX)]

27 Now the *phrase* “yet once *more*” indicates the removal of what is shaken, namely, things that have been created, in order that the things that are not shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, *since we* are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be thankful, through which let us serve God acceptably, with awe and reverence.

29 For indeed our God *is* a consuming fire. [[Deut 9:3](#) (LXX)]

Well-pleasing Service to God

13:1 Brotherly love must continue.

2 Do not neglect hospitality, because through this some have received angels as guests without knowing *it*.

3 Remember the prisoners, as *though you were* fellow-prisoners; *remember* the mistreated, as *though you* yourselves also are being *mistreated* in the body.

4 Marriage *must be* held in honor by all, and the marriage bed *be* undefiled, because God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

5 Your lifestyle *must be* free from the love of money, being content with what you have. For he himself has said, “I will never desert you, and I will never abandon you.” [cf. [Gen 28:15](#); [Deut 31:6, 8](#); [Josh 1:5](#)]

6 So then, we can say with confidence,

“The Lord *is* my helper, I will not be afraid.
What will man do to me?” [[Ps 118:6](#) (LXX 117:6)]

Shepherds and Sheep

- 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you; considering the outcome of their way of life, imitate their faith.
- 8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 9 Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for *it is good for* the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods by which those who participate have not benefited.
- 10 We have an altar from which those who serve in the tabernacle do not have the right to eat.
- 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sins are burned up outside the camp.
- 12 Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate, in order that he might sanctify the people by his own blood.
- 13 So we must go out to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach.
- 14 For here we do not have a permanent city, but we seek the *city* that is to come.
- 15 Therefore through him let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.
- 16 And do not neglect doing good and generosity, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.
- 17 Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not *with* groaning, for this *would be* unprofitable for you.

Closing

- 18 Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, *and* want to conduct ourselves commendably in every *way*.
- 19 And I especially urge *you* to do this, so that I may be restored to you more quickly.
- 20 Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
- 21 equip you with every good *thing* to do his will, carrying out in us *what is* pleasing before him through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever. Amen.
- 22 Now I urge you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for indeed I have written to you briefly.
- 23 Know *that* our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I will see you, if he comes quickly *enough*.
- 24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.
- 25 Grace *be* with all of you.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible](#) (LEB). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).