

Confidence in Christ – Pilgrims Should Make Progress

Goldstone Church – 20-Nov-16 10:30am

Hebrews 6:9-20

Introduction

We're concluding our series looking at the first 6 chapters in the book of Hebrews, under the theme of "Confidence in Christ". These verses summarise what the writer to the Hebrews has been saying up to the this point.

1. The **CERTAIN SALVATION** of True Believers **(Hebrews 6:13-20)**

These verses provide the assurance of an eternal future; 3 factors bound together like a 3-cord rope.

a) [First Cord] **God's Promise** (v.13-15)

"When God made his promise to Abraham, ... Abraham received what was promised."
(Heb 6:13a,15b)

The writer to the Hebrews makes another link to the Old Testament, referring to God's promise to Abraham, *"I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore."*
(Genesis 22:16-17)

Even though Abraham was less than perfect, with numerous failures and sins, God kept His promise to Abraham - and Isaac was born. God's promises to us today do not depend on our character, but rather on God's faithfulness.

God makes this promise to everyone who follows Him, *"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."* (1 John 5:11-12)

b) [Second Cord] **God's Covenant** (v.16-18)

"Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath." (Heb 6:16-17).

Definition of an Oath = 'Solemn Promised'. This is a profound Agreement, often described in the Bible as a Covenant. God confirmed the promise with an Oath, a Covenant-Agreement.

As Christians, God's promise to us is confirmed through Jesus, the ultimate New Covenant; provided for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the Last Supper, Jesus said, *"In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"* (Luke 22:20)

c) [Third Cord] **God's Son** (v.19-20)

This assurance of salvation directs us to the personhood of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf." (Heb 6:19-20a)

Our hope in Jesus is like an anchor for our soul. This spiritual anchor is different in meaning to physical anchors:

- a. We are spiritually-anchored upwards towards heaven. We are not anchored downwards.
- b. We are not anchored to stand still, but to move ahead; as in deepening and growing our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- c. Our spiritual-anchor is completely sure; it cannot break or slip. No physical anchor can give that guarantee.

When we put these 3 cords together, the certainty of our salvation is established. Our eternal future is secure because of: God's Promise, God's Covenant, and God's Son.

2. The **ONWARD PROGRESSION** of True Believers (Hebrews 6:9-12)

God has a long-range plan for our lives, and He knows what we need to do to become more like Jesus. These verses highlight some of the areas where Christians need to continue to grow and develop:

a) **Loving Progression** (v.10)

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." (Heb 6:10)

It's wonderful to hear from someone that they have received the love of Jesus in their lives. But it is even better when we see someone showing and displaying the love of Jesus in their daily lives.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)
Visible evidences of love to one another, are the messengers that declare we are followers of Jesus Christ.

b) **Faithful Progression** (v.11)

"We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure." (Heb 6:11)

Christians are called to be unrelenting in following Jesus Christ. Even though life's circumstances may sometimes be hard and dark, we progress and deepen in our relationship with Jesus as we keep on, keeping on with Him.

c) **Emulating Progression** (v.12)

"We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." (Heb 6:12)

Apostle Paul says, *"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2)*

If we want to progress in our relationship with Jesus, then we need to emulate, imitate and mirror Jesus in our daily life.

These 3 aspects are the Bible's recipe for growing and deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ. Progress in: Displaying the **love** of Jesus in our daily lives, **Faithfully** and unrelentingly following Jesus in our daily lives, and Imitating and **Emulating** Jesus in our daily lives.

CONCLUSION

As Christians, we need to build our lives on the *permanence* of God's eternal truth. We have a certainty and a Confidence in Christ that the world cannot match.

Our eternal future is secure because of:

- 1) God's Promise
- 2) God's Covenant
- 3) God's Son

From this place of security, we can progress in:

1. Displaying the love of Jesus in our daily lives
2. Faithfully following Jesus in our daily lives
3. Emulating Jesus in our daily lives

The book of Hebrews has some deep and profound truths, that can be difficult to apply to our everyday lives. The following are some practical suggestions to help us grow and deepen our relationship with Jesus.

- a) Read the Bible.
- b) Study a Bible Book.
- c) Study a Bible Theme.
- d) Join a Small Group.
- e) Share Your Faith.

The message of the book of Hebrews is one of encouragement and hope. As a result: Let us seek to live out our Confidence in Christ, and grow and deepen our relationship with Christ.

AMEN