



Three Reasons to Persevere Pt 3_God's Displeasure!

The Book of Hebrews 10:32-39 (Today: verses 38-39)

March 15, 2026

Holy Text: Hebrews 10:32-39 (emphasis on verses 38-39)

A Bit of History and Encouragement

- Finally, we approach the third point in William MacDonald's excellent summary of the last few verses of Hebrews 10:

In the remaining verses of chapter 10, the writer gives three strong reasons why the early Jewish Christians should continue steadfastly in their allegiance to Christ.

1. Their former experiences should stimulate them.
2. The nearness of the reward should strengthen them.
3. The fear of God's displeasure should deter them from going back.

- One thing we did not mention last week, is that from verse 37...
Hebrews 10:37 (KJV) *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*
- ...The author quotes from the prophet Habakkuk:
Habakkuk 2:2-4 (KJV) *And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it: because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*
- The book of Habakkuk, written in the late 7th century BC in the kingdom of Judah, unfolds against a backdrop of profound geo-political upheaval and spiritual decay. Geopolitically, Judah was caught in the shifting sands of imperial powers: the Assyrian Empire, which had long dominated the region, was crumbling under the onslaught rising Babylon.
- This era saw Judah under the weak rule of kings like Jehoiakim, who vacillated between alliances with Egypt and submission to Babylon, leading to Jerusalem's eventual siege and exile (607-586 BC).
- Spiritually, Judah was mired in idolatry, injustice, and covenant unfaithfulness, as Habakkuk laments the violence and perversion of justice among God's people ("O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear? even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save?" Hab 1:2-4).
- Particularly in Habakkuk 2:1-5, the prophet positions himself as a watchman on the rampart, awaiting God's response to his complaint about the Chaldeans' (Babylonians') brutality. God's reply commands Habakkuk to inscribe the vision plainly on tablets for all to read and run with it, emphasizing its certain fulfillment despite apparent delay (verses 2-3).
- Critically, "the vision" Habakkuk is instructed to write about and "make it plain" is God's coming judgment upon Babylon.
- The "running" is not primarily about passing the vision around to others, nor is it merely a modern motivational idea of "running with" a personal vision in a self-help sense. Rather, the emphasis falls on the clarity and certainty of God's coming judgment enabling the reader to move forward decisively and live by faith instead of frustration and fear.
- God's people were to wait patiently for that day...

1. Confident that it will come
 2. Knowing the pride of Babylon would be judged
 3. Walking by faith and not by sight while they wait!
- The author of Hebrews divinely ascribes to Habakkuk's words a second fulfillment: "**He** that shall come will come, and will not tarry." (Heb 10:37b, emphasis ours)
 - **That is, from a New Testament perspective, the vision is Christ and His Second Advent! Hallelujah!**
 - And the lessons for us are the same! We too must:
 1. Be Confident that He will come!
 2. Know that the pride of the devil and wicked men will be judged!
 3. Walk by faith and not by sight while we wait!

Remember, beloved, we live in a Spiritual Babylon! (See our Five-part series on The Babylon Posture)

- All around us we find the celebrations of idolatry and pagan worship.
- There is gross and perverted sexual immorality and the worship of death.
- There is institutionalized pressure to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image (the cultural false ideas, use of certain unbiblical words, and the reception and acceptance of the demons of the day).
- We can hear the "cultural music," ("the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick") that commands us to bow down and worship the cultural idols of the day! (Dan 3:4-7)
- We need the courage to speak the truth, and if necessary, brave the fiery furnace. (Dan 3:16-20)
- We are the Church of Jesus Christ, ultimately triumphant! (Matt 16:18; Rev 17:14)
- We, nevertheless, through much tribulation, must enter the Kingdom of God. (John 16:33; Acts 14:22)

Last week, we said patience/endurance WILL be needed...

- As you hold to the centrality and uniqueness of Christ, a main theme in Hebrews
- As you trust in the inspiration, inerrancy, infallibility, sufficiency, and perspicuity of Scripture
- As you develop a biblical worldview on controversial topics (like politics and government, same-sex and trans issues, babies and life, marxism, race, etc.)
- As you hold to biblical manhood and womanhood
- As you attempt to reform your home according to the Bible
- As you labor to disciple your children in the Faith
- As you attempt to build in Babylon (wealth, health, and dominion)
- As "friends" come and go
- As you battle your failures
- As you endure sickness and move closer to death
- As we await His coming!

Desiring to Please God: Encouragement from Verses 38-39

Hebrews 10:38-39 (KJV) 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.

1. Now... (v.38)

- The final point for perseverance is enjoined!
- Again, William MacDonald wrote that fear of God's displeasure should be a deterrent to apostasy. That is, those who truly love and fear God will want to please Him more than anything else.
- This IS the biblical teaching!

John 8:29 (KJV) *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (ESV) *So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 (KJV) *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.*

Romans 12:2 (KJV) *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Ephesians 5:17 (KJV) *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

Colossians 1:10 (KJV) *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

2 Timothy 2:4 (KJV) *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

1 John 3:22 (KJV) *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

2. The author speaks to and encourages the “just” or the justified (those who have been declared righteous)! (v.38a)

Romans 3:20 (KJV) *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Romans 3:23-24 (KJV) *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

Romans 5:1 (KJV) *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Romans 5:9 (KJV) *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (KJV) *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

- Beloved, is that you? Have you been justified? If so, persevere! Hallelujah!

3. Such will live and persevere by faith! (v.38b)

Galatians 3:11 (KJV) *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*

- Faith in Christ's Person and Work!
- Faith in God's sustaining grace!
- Faith in the Word of God!
- Faith in the Promises of God!
- Faith in the truth that Christ is coming back!

4. Therefore, we must not draw back! (v.38c)

- The Greek for *draw back* is *hupostellō*. It means in this context to "withdraw, to be timid, to cover, shrink. To hesitate to avow what one believes, to be unwilling to utter from fear. To shrink from declaring, to conceal, or dissemble."
- Lest you think publicly and verbally standing for Christ is unnecessary, do you recall our LORD's admonition in this area?

Matthew 10:32-33 (KJV) *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. **33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

- We must not run. We must not hide. Remember, faith is contrary to fear! Thankfully, He will help us as He helped the disciples!

John 14:26 (KJV) *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Luke 12:11-12 (KJV) *And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: **12** For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*

5. Knowing that God is displeased with those who draw back (apostates) aids our perseverance! (v.38d)

- Beloved, our LORD takes NO pleasure in those that deny Him. Again, what a sad state to have experienced so much of God but not be IN God!

Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV) *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall*

fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

- Recall from the sermon on these verses the condition of the apostate:¹
 - *They had been enlightened.* Not converted, but “made aware” of their sin, their need for a Savior via the Word of God.
 - *They tasted of the heavenly gift.* They sang, heard preaching, enjoyed fellowship, gave offerings, prayed, served, etc.
 - *They partook in the Holy Ghost.* That is, they were in His Presence when among the saints, and were reproved of Him as unbelievers. (John 16:8) They may have seen Him move among His Body administering gifts (1 Cor 12), and yet remained unmoved.
 - *They tasted the good Word of God.* Again, they heard preaching! They may have been in the assemblies when prophecies came forth, and the psalms of Zion were sung!
 - *They tasted of the powers of the world to come.* That is, they would have seen the strength, power, encouragement, steadfastness, and joy that comes from the knowledge of eternal life in Jesus Christ among the true saints of God. They would have heard thundering sermons on eternal life, the return of Christ, the wonders of heaven!
- Beloved, Hebrews, by God’s grace, pushes us to examine our hearts, whether we be in the faith! (2 Cor 13:5) It does so again and again, and we need it! Why?
- Because, again, God takes NO pleasure in the unregenerate and apostate, and they will be judged!

Psalms 5:4-5 (KJV) *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. 5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.*

Psalms 7:11-16 (NLT) *God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If a person does not repent, God will sharpen his sword; he will bend and string his bow. 13 He will prepare his deadly weapons and shoot his flaming arrows. 14 The wicked conceive evil; they are pregnant with trouble and give birth to lies. 15 They dig a deep pit to trap others, then fall into it themselves. 16 The trouble they make for others backfires on them. The violence they plan falls on their own heads.*

Romans 1:18 (KJV) *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Romans 2:5-11 (KJV) *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man*

¹ <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2025/2/the-book-of-hebrews-64-6-if-they-shall-fall-away-revisiting-the-frightening-reality-of-apostasy>

that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: **11** For there is no respect of persons with God.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (KJV) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

2 Peter 3:7 (KJV) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

6. “Unto Perdition?” LORD forbid! Persevere Beloved! (v.39a)

- The word perdition is *apōleia* in Greek. It implies utter waste, ruin, or destruction. (Thayer)
- In the New Testament, it is always associated with falsehood, destruction and judgment:
John 17:12 (KJV) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 (KJV) But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- The point: this is the regrettable state of the apostate. They have drawn back unto perdition!

7. Instead of drawing back, we believe!

John 1:12-13 (KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: **13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:15 (KJV) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:36 (KJV) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24 (KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 11:25 (KJV) *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

1 John 4:2-4 (KJV) *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

1 John 5:1 (KJV) *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

Yea LORD, we believe!

Closing Exhortation

Oh LORD, not only will we not cast away our confidence, but we will also grow in faith! We believe, by Thy grace, until the saving of our souls!

Oh LORD, cleanse our lives from sin and any resemblance to the apostasy Thou has so obviously and passionately condemned!

Oh LORD, increase our faith! (Luke 17:5) Faith in Thy Word! Faith to live in holiness. Faith to go, stand, and speak! (Acts 5:20)

All for Thy glory LORD Jesus!
Amen!