



Three Reasons to Persevere Pt 1_ Remembering the Former Days

The Book of Hebrews 10:32-39

February 22, 2026

Holy Text: Hebrews 10:32-39 (Focus on verses 32-34)

- William MacDonald begins his commentary on this section of Scripture the way:

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.

- We agree. And again we note the consistent call of the Holy Spirit via the writer to persevere ...to continue in good and godly things, and to focus and refocus upon Jesus Christ as Messiah, King, and “one greater than the Temple.” (Matt 12:6)
- To us, these verses should be seen as encouragement to both true and wavering believers after prophetic warnings against apostasy:

Hebrews 10:25-31 (KJV) *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. 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? 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.*

- Indeed, the author now strikes an extortive note for his hearers, pointing them back to times wherein their faith in Christ was more sure—proved by their subsequent actions.
- **And on this point, let us also be mindful and heed apostolic instruction! We too can receive strength and encouragement to do the same!**
- First, he calls them to remembrance (v.34), which might inspire us to:

Guard Against Forgetfulness: A Review¹

Beloved, why is Forgetting so easy for us?

Jeremiah 2:32 (KJV) *Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.*

1. Because we are easily distracted.
2. Because our priorities are often misplaced.

¹ <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2021/5/the-mercy-of-jesus-pt-3-guarding-against-forgetfulness>

3. Because of our disdain for authority.

Proverbs 4:1-2 (KJV) *Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. 2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.*

Proverbs 4:4-6 (KJV) *He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not: neither decline from the words of my mouth. 6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.*

4. Because of the world, the flesh, and the devil.
5. Because we do not typically “practice” remembering.

What can Forgetfulness cause?

1. A loss of hope...which can lead to rebellion.

Psalms 78:5-8 (KJV) *For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: 8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.*

2. An acceptance of erroneous doctrine

Galatians 3:1-3 (KJV) *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

3. A lack of knowledge and its consequences

Hosea 4:6 (KJV) *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

4. Backsliding

Ezekiel 23:35-39 (KJV) *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms. 36 The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations; 37 That they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands, and with their idols have they committed adultery, and have also caused their sons, whom they bare unto me, to pass for them through the fire, to devour them. 38 Moreover this they have done unto me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my sabbaths. 39 For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and, lo, thus have they done in the midst of mine house.*

5. Judgment and Calamity

Psalms 9:17 (KJV) *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

Jeremiah 18:15-17 (KJV) *Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; 16 To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. 17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.*

The whole book of Judges!

What can we do to guard against it...to practice Remembering?

1. Repent. A repentant posture cultivates appreciation and remembering. (Rev 2:5, below)
2. Return. Make a decision to remember.

Jeremiah 3:21-22 (KJV) *A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God. 22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.*

3. Read, meditate upon, and delight in the Scriptures.

Psalms 119:15-16 (KJV) *I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

Psalms 119:11 (KJV) *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Psalms 119:92-93 (KJV) *Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. 93 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.*

4. Sing the Scriptures.
 - It is easy to forget that the Psalms are songs! Music is powerful. One of its attributes is ease of remembering! Some Psalms were written for the purpose of helping God's people remember what He did on their behalf! (Ps 78, 105, 106, 135, 136)
5. Be faithful to the Local Church; it is designed to spark remembrance!

Acts 20:27-31 (KJV) *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (KJV) *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.*

Hebrews 13:7 (KJV) *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

6. Appreciate and Utilize Special or “Memorial” Days.

Exodus 12:12-14 (KJV) **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. **13** And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. **14** And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

7. Use some form of Ebenezer, a help to remember.

1 Samuel 7:12 (KJV) Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

Joshua 4:1-7 (KJV) And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, **2** Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, **3** And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: **5** And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: **6** That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? **7** Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

8. Testify!

Psalms 78:1-4 (KJV) Maschil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. **2** I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: **3** Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. **4** We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Revelation 12:11 (KJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Remembering the Former Days: Some Thoughts on Today's Verses

Hebrews 10:32 (KJV) **But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;**

1. As we have seen, remembering is difficult but powerful! The author asks true and wavering believers to remember God's goodness. And indeed, it is a worthwhile thing.,
 - “Remember,” God created you, and from your birth, has daily fed you and protected you. He kept the devil from killing you. He brought you unto Himself. He showed you your sin and imparted faith to believe in Christ as Savior and LORD! He has guided you, empowered you, and gave you strength when you had none! He has calmed your thoughts and been a balm over your fears. He has given you family and friends, a church and His Word!

2. Specifically, the author asks his hearers to remember not only their salvation, but all they went through for Christ...their “great fight of afflictions!”
3. So a question: Why would the author ask them to remember their afflictions as opposed to their good times? Two possible reasons...because afflictions:

- Teach us things about ourselves that blessings do not!

Psalms 119:67 (KJV) *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*

Psalms 119:71 (KJV) *It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*

Acts 5:41 (KJV) *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

Philippians 1:29 (KJV) *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

Romans 5:3-4 (KJV) *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

2 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV) *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

- Emphasize God’s deliverance and power, which strengthens our faith!

Psalms 34:7-8 (KJV) *The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Psalms 34:17-19 (KJV) *The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

2 Timothy 4:16-18 (KJV) *At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Hebrews 10:33 (KJV) *Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.*

1. The NLT says here, “Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.”
2. In other words, the author highlights the shame and ignominy of their persecution to contrast such with their steadfast faith and desire to assist others.
3. The idea is to remember their bedevilment OVER AGAINST their commitment to Christ and the sustaining grace of God and the keeping power of the Holy Spirit.

4. That is, they were to consider their pain and tribulation vs the heights of God's love and approval. Their lowest and most embarrassing moments provided a platform to experience greater mercy and the peace of Christ!
5. In context, the thought is essentially, *"Remember all that you went through for Christ. Remember how you were persecuted, but nevertheless stood firm and even helped others! Are you really going to throw all that away?"*

Hebrews 10:34 (KJV) *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.*

1. The KJV highlights how personal this was for the author: despite his hearers suffering, they risked even more by showing compassion to him!

- Would you agree that it takes courage to befriend truth-telling, zealous believers? These kinds of folks always seem "too extreme" to the world and even sometimes to the church.
- In times past, have you ever disassociated yourself from that "radical Christian" who takes things "too far?" (Often code for "They actually want to obey the Bible!")
- OR, have you even been that believer from which others separated themselves because "It doesn't take all that?"
- The hearers are commended for their unashamed connection with the author and those who were persecuted for righteousness sake. (Matt 5:10)
- Just a reminder CRC: Associations matter! We are commanded thusly:

1 Corinthians 15:33 (KJV) *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.²*

2 Timothy 2:22 (KJV) *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2. The author notes that some of his hearers even had their possessions taken away. Their Homes? Food? Livelihoods?
 - And this is where the proverbial "rubber meets the road" for many.
 - It's one thing to shout "Jesus is LORD" in church or Christian environments, and quite another to lose money or when wicked people have the power to take from you.
 - No one said it better than our LORD:

Matthew 13:20-22 (KJV) *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. **22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

3. Nevertheless, they endured, because what Christ has promised is "better" and "enduring!" Hallelujah!

² **1 Corinthians 15:33 (NLT)** Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."

2 Corinthians 5:1 (KJV) For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

1 Peter 1:4-5 (KJV) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Closing Considerations and Prayers:

Today's Text reminds us not only to remember the days when we were more zealous, but also to count the cost. Yes, beloved, there is a cost to following Jesus:

Mark 8:34-38 (KJV) And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

Oh LORD, may we be willing to joyfully bear the cross, refusing to deny Thee or others who passionately serve Thee despite worldly or devilish persecutions and afflictions.

Master, help us to remember the days when our love for Thee burned hot, and obey Thy counsel to Ephesus:

Revelation 2:4-5 (KJV) *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

King Jesus, do not remove our lampstand! We remember oh LORD! We repent, oh LORD! We turn again to the "first works" of loving Thee will all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength!

*In Jesus' Mighty Name,
Amen.*