

“From Gospel Indicatives to Gospel Imperatives”:

The Turning Point of Hebrews & Kick-Off Sunday

Sermon Notes

➤ **If you are a Christian, Jesus not only died for you *back then* - but he lives for you *right now* (vv.19-21)**

**So...*

1. Draw near to God (v.22)

2. Hold fast the gospel (v.23)

3. Make room for mission (vv.24-25)

Next Week: Hebrews 10:26-39 - “It Is a Fearful Thing to Fall into the Hands of the Living God”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of September 8th - 14th

Getting Started

1. Two classic, equal and opposite errors in the Christian life are *legalism* and *license*. *Legalism* is the tendency to root our acceptance with God in the soil of our own performance for God (see Romans 10:3; Luke 18:9-14). *License* is the tendency to abuse the grace of God by ignoring our ongoing rebellion against God (see Romans 6:1-2; Jude 4). Assuming that none of us are striking the perfect balance here, which of these opposite errors are more native to your own heart? Share your answers together as a group.

Digging Deeper

2. Praise be to God, the biblical message of redemption (as well as the very structure of many of our New Testament epistles) is written in such a way as to strike at the roots of both legalism and license. Consider the dynamics at work in a passage like Exodus 20:1-21. Note how the prior grace of God (in vv.1-2) precedes the giving of the law of God (in vv.3-17) in the lives of the people of God. Or study the structure of entire books like Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians. See (once again) how what God has *done* (Romans 1-5; Ephesians 1-3 and Colossians 1-2) is antecedent to what God calls us to *do* (Romans 6-16; Ephesians 4-6; and Colossians 3-4). The Epistle to the Hebrews follows this same pattern. Gospel indicatives (1:1-10:18) precede gospel imperatives (10:19-13:25). What does all this mean for our mission as a church? How does knowing this serve to assist and strengthen you in your battle against legalism on the one hand, and license on the other?

Open Your Bible to Hebrews 10:19-25...

3. When we encounter a “Therefore...” in the Bible, it’s always wise to ask ‘what’s the “therefore” *there for*’? Take a look at Hebrews 10:19. What’s the “Therefore...” *there for*? How does this word (and what follows to the end of the letter) indicate that we’ve arrived at a pivotal moment in Hebrews? Compare and contrast the content of 1:1-10:18 with that of 10:19-13:25. What similarities do you see? What differences do you notice as well?

4. The outline of Hebrews 10:19-25 is rather straightforward. We’ve got two “since’s” (vv.19-21) and three “let us’s” (vv.22-25). Trace the argument of the author. What’s the central point he’s making in these seven verses? Try putting it in your own words by finishing this sentence: “In Hebrews 10:19-25, the writer is urging his readers to _____ in view of _____.”

5. Why is salvation through the blood of Jesus called “the new and living way” (v.20)? What does this mean? Is this, then, in contrast to salvation through an “old and dying way”? If so, how? What did this mean to the original readers of this letter (if you’re struggling, take a look at 7:18; 8:7; and 8:13)? How does this apply to us today in the 21st century?

6. If you are a Christian, Hebrews 10:22 beckons you to “draw near [to God] with a true heart *in full assurance of faith*”? Be honest...would you say that you have full assurance of faith (that is...100% confidence that you’ve been born again)? If so, on what (precisely) do you base your assurance? If not, on what (precisely) do you base your lack of assurance? This can be a challenging issue, for sure. Take a look at 1 John 1:7-2:6; 2:9-11; 2:23; 3:14; 4:2-3, 6, 13-15, 20-21; 5:1-5, 13, 18 for additional help. What is your gut-level assessment of the genuineness of your possession of faith in Christ under the microscope of passages such as these?

7. What’s the command in Hebrews 10:23? Looking carefully at the argument the author makes in this same verse, what is the motivation to obey the command he’s just issued? Compare what we learn here with truths like the ones we find in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philipians 1:6; 1 Peter 5:10-11; and Jude 2, 21 and 24-25. What is the effect of truths like these on your heart? Explain.

8. Hebrews 10:24-25 is a massive call for believers to be devoted to one another for the sake of the mission God’s given us to be and make disciples of Christ. Walk slowly through this imperative together as a group. Do you know anyone that’s a part of our fellowship, who names the name of Christ, who’s in the habit of “neglecting to meet together” with us as a body? In view of the colossal motivation found in the verses that follow (please see 10:26-31), how might you be more deliberate in your pursuit of them in the days ahead? What intentional, practical measures might love drive you to take in your relationship with them? In your closing prayers for one another as a group, please be sure to stir in prayers for such people in the life of our church.