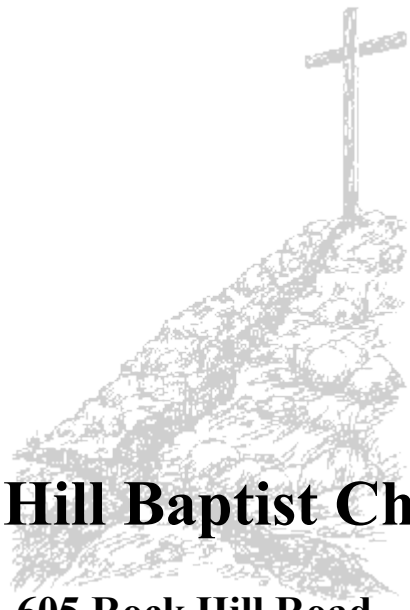


No More Offering For Sin (Part 2)

Hebrews 10:17-31



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FOCAL Hebrews 10:24-31 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: {25} 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 willfully 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."

Our text opens with the words:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider¹ one another to provoke² unto love and to good works .."

Those who are members of Christ's Church by faith in Christ are called to *focus on means by which we can*

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- 1 Present Active Subjunctive *katanoeo* {pronounced kat-an-o-eh'-o}, to *fix the eyes on*, focus on, consider attentively
 - 2 *paroxusmos* {pronounced par-ox-oos-mos'}, to excite or irritate, to *drive toward*

drive one another toward the outward expression of our love. How can we put our faith in action? How can the Church achieve those things that God has for us to do?



In the computer³ world there is a phrase called *multitasking*. Multitasking is when someone or something tries to do *two or more things* at the same time. A computer can usually follow

up to twenty *threads or more* of information or programs at the same time. The more threads of information that there are, the slower the computer *processor* or the so called "mind" of the computer runs. The best computers have high speed memory and the ability to multi task at very fast rates.

Humans also multi task - trying to do several things at the same time. We've all seen the driver of a car pass with one eye on the road, one eye on his passenger, and one ear on his telephone. Though humans are designed in such a way that they are able to do several things at once, just as it is with the computer the more things you do the *poorer you will do them*. Tennessee Highway 412 has been a place where *many people* have been injured and killed. Is it because it's a bad highway? No, highway 412 is an excellent highway with a few exceptions. Why

3 image from allfreelancework.com

have we had so many accidents on highway 412? Because in most cases people are *not paying attention to their main goal, which is to get where you're going*. You don't get in a car and head toward Lexington for the goal of talking on the phone. That's foolish! You get in the car so that you can *go somewhere* - that's your goal, your destination. When you focus on your goal and not on the distractions, you usually get where you need to be without having any accidents.

As it is with driving, so it is with the Church. The Bible tells us in our focal text to *focus on our goal*. We are to work *together* by **provoking one another to love and good** (Divine, Godly) **works**. As a Christian I do not need to worry about *being condemned* - I do not have to worry about *retaining my salvation*. If I am saved then there **remaineth no more sacrifice for sins (verse 26)**.

SCHOOL'S OUT Party For CHILDREN



So now I am free to *focus on the goal that Christ has given me*, not on my own past failures and sins. But what is the mission of the Church? Is it to have a *good time*⁴? The Scripture says:

Psalms 133:1-2 (KJV) "... Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! {2} It

is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments..."

4 image from lifeway.com

I believe that, just as we in our own families eat meals together and fellowship, the Church can do the same thing. Fellowships and activities together *promote unity in Christ's Body*. Cookouts and youth functions, concerts, and other entertainments are perfectly fine *as long as they do not cause us to lose sight of our goal*. What about *singing and praising the Lord*? Is this our goal in the Christian way of life?



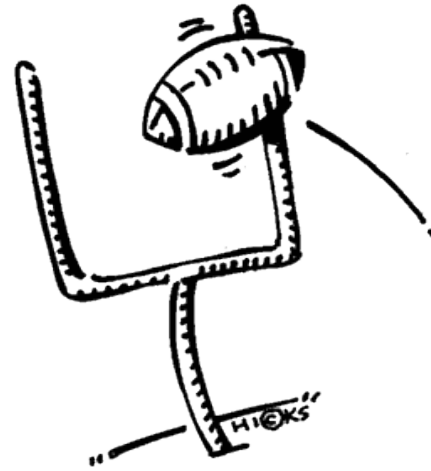
Ephesians 5:19 (KJV)
"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Well, once again I have to say there's nothing wrong with singing⁵ and praising God. In fact, it is *very* Biblical for a Church to make music

together. Quite frankly, I've found that music and beautiful singing in one accord promotes unity in the Church, while softening the heart and *preparing* it to receive the Word of God. But **we have all seen Churches fragment to pieces when the main goal of the Church became the goal of the Church**. Churches have literal *wars* over whether we should play contemporary or traditional music in the services - and many a Pastor has died over something that, when you *weigh it against the anguish of the terrible Cross of*

5 image from lifeway.com

Christ - you can only end by saying *it wasn't worth fighting about*.



What is the goal⁶ of the Church? What does the Bible mean when it says **let us consider⁷ one another to provoke⁸ unto love and to good works .."**. The Scripture teaches that the Church has both an *internal goal* as well as an *external goal*. We have

the *Mission of our Church* given at the very top of our weekly bulletin. It states:

"Our Mission is to be a New Testament Body of Believers committed to the study of God's Word, the Worship of our Savior Jesus Christ, and Witnessing of the Gospel in Henderson County and Beyond."

This is one of the finest mission statements I've ever read, as it *perfectly reflects* what our focal text says, which is to:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:24 **"And let us consider⁹ one**

6 graphic from <http://school.discovery.com>

7 Present Active Subjunctive katanoëo {pronounced kat-an-o-eh'-o}, to *fix the eyes on*, focus on, consider attentively

8 paroxusmos {pronounced par-ox-oos-mos'}, to excite or irritate, to *drive toward*

9 Present Active Subjunctive katanoëo {pronounced kat-an-o-eh'-o}, to *fix the eyes on*, focus on, consider attentively

another to provoke¹⁰ unto love and to good works .."

When you look at our focal verse as well as our own Church Mission statement, you see that the Church has both an *internal* as well as an *external* goal. It's *internal* goal is *provoking unto love*, whereas our external goal is *provoking unto good works* - putting our faith in action.

Our External Goal

The *external goal* of the Church, the **good works** that we are supposed to be doing, is to *tell others that salvation and eternal life is only possible through Jesus Christ*. What is the Work of God? What is the work that God demanded of His Church?

One day some people came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they got to Him they asked Him, "**Master, why are you here?**" You see, they thought that Jesus had come to Capernaum to *do a miracle or two*, or to fill their bellies with more free food. You see, Jesus had just turned a handful of bread and a few little fishes into enough food to feed thousands. Jesus, Almighty God in the flesh, looked into their hearts and said:

John 6:26-27 (KJV) "... Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. {27} Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."

¹⁰ paroxusmos {pronounced par-ox-oos-mos'}, to excite or irritate, to drive toward

"You don't want to do the work of God - you just want to be filled, to be entertained, to get something that will satisfy in the here and now, but not in eternity". Jesus was very direct with these people. Anyway, the people responded as we often do when challenged. They asked Him:

John 6:28 (KJV) "... What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"

What is the *work of God*, the *Father's Business* that we need to be about? What did Jesus say? He said:

John 6:29 (KJV) "... This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He [the Father] hath sent."

The *primary goal* of anyone trying to do the work of God is to *first of all* believe on Jesus - and once you have believed on Him, to *tell others that Jesus is the only Savior*. We must tell others to believe on Him whom the Father hath sent. Jesus Christ had *one goal* when He came to this earth, and it was:

Luke 19:10 (KJV) "... to seek and to save that which was lost."

The Necessity For Our External Goal: Man Is Unable To Save Himself

As Americans in love with television and movies we have become accustomed to figuratively *living out our lives through others*. We can watch a show on television and, becoming absorbed in its plot, we can put ourselves in the place of the show's hero and live our lives through

that imaginary figure. When we watch a gunfight we can be shot, and yet not shot. We are shot because the hero is shot, and yet no bullet actually enters our bodies. So we as a nation of people, very familiar with television, experience something without *actually experiencing it*. This is called *catharsis*, a purging of the emotions *without actually going through the real process*.

We have transferred our television viewing habits, I'm afraid, to the Father's Business, the goal of the Church. Many of us hear that the lost person will go to hell, and we even agree to that. But we must not *lose our vision of hell*, that understanding that Hell is a *real place* that unrepentant unbelievers go to - even our own relatives. The Bible says:



Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)
"Where there is no vision, the people perish ..."

In a very real way¹¹ when the Church *loses its vision of hell* people perish. Jesus commanded us before He ascended to Heaven:

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have

¹¹ image from lifeway.com



commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

There is an *absolute necessity*¹² for us to tell others that Jesus Christ is the only Way, the only Truth, and the only Life. Mankind - every man, woman, and child born - is literally

spiritually dead and *unable to get to God by their own works*. This is a very *real* state of being that is on *everyone* who is not saved. The Bible tells us:

(Romans 5:12-14 KJV) "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: {13} (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. {14} Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

Let's break this text down by points:

a. The Bible says that *spiritual death* came *because of sin*, that is, because man disobeyed God. Our text says "**sin entered into the world, and death by sin**".

¹² image from <http://5loaves2fishes.org.nz>

b. The death that entered the world *was universal* - all humanity fell into *spiritual death* because of Adam's sin. The text states **by one man sin entered into the world and death passed upon all men.**

c. Though we as humans like to categorize people into either *good* or *evil*, that is *moral* or *immoral* people, the Bible tells us that *all are dead*. This is non-negotiable. Sin is on everyone at every age, no matter how good they appear to be on the outside. The text states **death passed upon all men.**

d. *Failure to obey the Law of God, the Mosaic Law, makes you a sinner but has no bearing on whether man is spiritually dead or not.* The text states **death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude** [manner, or in the same way that Adam sinned] **of Adam's transgression.** Death *ruled like a king* over everyone born from Adam to Moses, though the Mosaic Law did not come until after Moses led Israel from Egypt in the exodus.

The conclusion is that all are spiritually dead if they have not been made *spiritually alive by God*. All people are therefore *quite naturally* born physically alive but *spiritually dead and apart from God*. We are told in the Scripture:

(Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV) "And you hath he [God] quickened, [made alive] who were dead in trespasses and sins: {2} Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the

prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: {3} Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Spiritually dead people *cannot be good*, at least, not in the way that God defines the word "good" - and it is His definition that counts. The other day I decided to buy memory for my computer, so I went online and went to several sites that sell memory. The problem was, each site I went to gave me another *type of memory* as the required type for my computer. Finally I decided to go to the website sponsored by the makers of my computer - and quickly found the right type of memory.

We must retain *our vision of hell* lest we become confused and fail to do Christ's Will for His Church. **William Booth**, the founder of the *Salvation Army*, wrote in his sermon "A Vision of the Lost":

"I saw a dark and stormy ocean. Over it the black clouds hung heavily; through them every now and then vivid lightning flashed and loud thunder rolled, while the winds moaned, and the waves rose and foamed, towered and broke, only to rise and foam, tower and break again.

In that ocean I thought I saw myriads of poor human beings plunging and floating, shouting and shrieking, cursing and struggling and drowning; and as they cursed and screamed they rose and shrieked again,

and then some sank to rise no more.

And I saw out of this dark angry ocean, a mighty rock that rose up with its summit towering high above the black clouds that overhung the stormy sea. And all around the base of this great rock I saw a vast platform. Onto this platform, I saw with delight a number of the poor struggling, drowning wretches continually climbing out of the angry ocean. And I saw that a few of those who were already safe on the platform were helping the poor creatures still in the angry waters to reach the place of safety.

On looking more closely I found a number of those who had been rescued, industriously working and scheming by ladders, ropes, boats and other means more effective, to deliver the poor strugglers out of the sea. Here and there were some who actually jumped into the water, regardless of the consequences in their passion to "rescue the perishing." And I hardly know which gladdened me the most- the sight of the poor drowning people climbing onto the rocks reaching a place of safety, or the devotion and self-sacrifice of those whose whole being was wrapped up in the effort for their deliverance.

As I looked on, I saw that the occupants of that platform were quite a mixed company. That is, they were divided into different "sets" or classes, and they occupied themselves with different pleasures and employments. But only a very few of them seemed to make it their business to get the people out of the sea.

But what puzzled me most was the fact that though all of them had been rescued at one time or another from the ocean, nearly everyone seemed to have forgotten all about it. Anyway, it seemed the memory of its darkness and danger no longer troubled them at all. And what seemed equally strange and perplexing to me was that these people did not even seem to have any care- that is any agonizing care- about the poor perishing ones who were struggling and drowning right before their very eyes... many of whom were their own husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and even their own children."

What a terrible vision this is, perhaps more so because it is often true today. The external goal of the Church is to, as that old song says,

**Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.**

Refrain

**Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save¹³.**

You see, the phrase **no more sacrifice for sins** also refers to the Biblical truth that *there is no means of salvation that God will accept apart from the work of His Son on the Cross of Calvary*. Once you understand this, you can understand a proper interpretation of this

13 Fanny Crosby, Rescue The Perishing

difficult passage in Hebrews. We read:

FOCAL Hebrews 10:26-31 "For if we sin willfully 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."

Many people have read these words and used them - wrongfully, I might add - to teach that a person, once saved, could be lost. Yet that is not the intent of these verses. If you are going to interpret the Scripture, you need to read it *not only for its current application*, but you need to remember *to whom the text was originally written*. The Book of Hebrews was originally written to the *Hebrew*, a person of the nation of Israel. When Jesus Christ *first came* to earth in the form of man, He came to save *Israel first*. Jesus told His disciples:

Matthew 10:5-7 (KJV) "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the**

Samaritans enter ye not: {6} But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. {7} And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus Christ came as the the Sacrificial Lamb, the **Blood of the Covenant** that was to *sanctify, to set apart* His people Israel. A *Gentile woman* came to Jesus and begged Him to heal her daughter, to which the Savior replied:

Matthew 15:24 (KJV) "... I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Though Jesus did indeed heal this woman's child He made it clear that He was the Lamb of God whose Blood would sanctify Israel, God's chosen people. **Simeon** sat patiently waiting for the (**Luke 2:25**) "**consolation of Israel**" - and he praised God when Mary brought the baby Jesus into the Temple that day. The Bible testifies that:

John 1:11 (KJV) "**He came unto his own, and his own received him not."**

He came to Israel as the **blood of the covenant**, the **Spirit of Grace** - and though many Jews were saved, Israel herself rejected the Messiah. They turned away from Him Who came to die for their sins, and instead clung to the Law for salvation, to the old sacrifices, to the old useless ways.

The writer of Hebrews warns all those who would read this epistle that *the only way to be saved is through*

Jesus. The writer warns this congregation, many of whom may be *unsaved but outwardly holy, much like the Judaizers* that, if they reject Jesus Christ as Savior, then they will be guilty of "**trodd[ing] under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing.**" Such a rejection would blaspheme God by rejecting **the Spirit of grace** - and would cause the rejector to lose the only means by which a person can be saved.

As the Church that Christ died for, we must continue to promote faith alone in Christ alone as the *only means whereby a person could possibly be saved*. These are His standards, God's standards - and the only standards that matter. I pray that God has touched your hearts with these words.

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