

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Including "Sunday Morning"

Hebrews 10:24-25

The Context

We need to get a running start at our passage by looking at what comes before our verses.

In Light of the Cross

Hebrews 10:19-21

- ❑ Everything about the Christian life starts with and comes back to the Cross. Jesus' death on our behalf is the central thing in our lives.
- ❑ He has made a way for us to be with God. This is the meditation which should continually encourage us and press us on for Him.
- ❑ We have the ability to be in the presence of God. This is stated in many ways using Old Testament imagery to make the point clear.

Now We Must Act!

Hebrews 10:22-23

- ❑ We are not just left reflecting on the cross. We should be moved to action.
- ❑ That action is not what we might expect. We are to go to God! In a real way He is telling us to have intimacy with Him. That is an application that He makes clear in our text.
- ❑ In case you missed it, even this act is because of the hope you have in Christ representing you before the Father. Christ is faithful!

Is This Our Joy?

- ❑ Since the cross is true and we have free access to the Father, do we act on it every moment of every day? Why not?
- ❑ We get distracted and trust in or rely upon lesser things too often.
- ❑ Sometimes even the Bible seems dry to us and prayer becomes non-existent.
- ❑ What is the answer? The Body!

A New Way to Think about Loving Others

Let me ask a question: If this is true that we have a responsibility to respond to the cross in this way and we struggle with doing it, how should we approach other believers who struggle too?

Our Consideration Should be...

1. We need to spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
 - ❑ What does this look like practically? What kinds of things would this include?
 - ❑ Why would we dedicate our time to something like this?
 - ❑ How can this be accomplished even on Sunday morning?
 - ❑ What do I do when I just need to be spurred on?
 - ❑ What specifically should I be encouraging others to think about or do?
2. We must continue getting together to encourage one another.
 - ❑ What is encouragement? What is included in this word?
 - ❑ According to *Hebrews 3:13* we need this to guard against sinfulness.
 - ❑ We have a responsibility toward one another! We are not loving God if we do not practically love others. *1 John 3:10-21, 1 John 5:19-21, James 2:14-17*

3. The “Day” is approaching and this should spur us on even more.
 - ❑ What day is in mind here?
 - ❑ Why would that be even more of a motivator?
 - ❑ Do you live like the day is approaching?
 - ❑ What would that include?

What Can We Do Practically?

- ❑ Are you battling to be encouraged daily yourself? If we are not being refreshed each and every day, we will have nothing to share with others. This means being in the word and in prayer. This is what living in dependence upon God looks like every day.
- ❑ Do you think about others throughout the day? Are you praying for them and thinking about what they might need to hear in order to live for Jesus today?
- ❑ We live in an age where it is tremendously easy to get a simple message to others quickly. Maybe we can encourage each other to press on by sending cards, e-mails, phone messages, text messages, etc throughout the day. Be creative!
- ❑ Are you transparent about your own struggles and willing to open up to the body so that they might be able to come alongside you to encourage you and spur you on?
- ❑ Accept other people’s encouragement humbly and praise God that they care about you enough to come alongside.