

Exhortations to Faithfulness

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The book of Hebrews is an exhortation to faithfulness. Within the book there are thirteen statements which contain the exhortation, “Let us.”

“Let Us Fear”

The first of these statements appears in Hebrews 4:1, “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” The word “therefore” points the reader back to the discussion in the third chapter where the writer warned against Christians falling away into unbelief like most of the children of Israel did after they were delivered from Egyptian bondage. “Fear” is a word many people today have all but eliminated from their vocabularies. The thing to fear from this passage is the fear of losing the promise of a home in heaven through spiritual shortcomings.

“Let Us Labor”

In the eleventh verse of the same chapter the exhortation is, “Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Again, a contrast is struck between what the Bible says and popular views in religion today. Ever growing is the view that salvation is all of grace, and should there be requirements, commandments, or demands, then a meritorious system of salvation has replaced salvation by grace. The Bible says, “Let us labor.” Since Jesus Christ set the example and He said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (Jn. 9:4), then there must be work for His disciples to do. Lives of unbelief are changed by doing the work of the Master. James wrote, “I will show thee my faith by my works” (Jas. 2:18c).

“Let Us Hold Fast Our Profession”

Twice in Hebrews 4:14 and 10:23 the reason given for holding fast to the profession of faith is because of Jesus Christ, the faithful high priest over the church of Christ. Since He is interceding on high, Christians have a valid and strong reason to retain confidence in their profession of faith. Jesus Christ is made a high priest for ever (Heb. 5:6; 7:17, 21). So, those who serve Him as kings and priests are admonished to continue in their profession (1 Pet. 2:5, Rev. 1:6). He will faithfully fulfill His promises to His followers. Hebrews 4:14, “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, *let us hold fast our profession*” (emphasis added). Hebrews 10:23, “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)*” (emphasis added).

“Let Us Come Boldly to the Throne”

As noted, Christians have a permanent high priest, Jesus Christ, and due to the fact that He was tempted as Christians are today and understands the real challenges to faithfulness, no inhibition nor hesitation should distract from prayer and reverent worship. Hebrews 4:16 reads, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

“Let Us Go on Unto Perfection”

In the sixth chapter at verse one, the readers are urged to continue to grow as Christians. They were to be moving forward in the Christian life, not backward by constantly laying the foundation for growth, but building their faith toward maturity. The writer commended his readers for their work and labor of love in which they were actively engaged and for continuing

in those efforts (v. 10). The admonition is given for Christians not to get lazy (v. 12) and fall away (v. 6) but to “show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” (v. 11). “Perfection” as used here does not mean not without flaw, but “complete, mature.”

“Let Us Draw Near”

The exhortation of Hebrews 10:22 is, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” When Christians draw near to God, He draws near unto them. James wrote, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (Jas. 4:8a). Baptism into Christ is when “bodies are washed with pure water.” In baptism penitent believers who have confessed Christ are washed from their sins in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5).

“Let Us Consider One Another”

Others affect the eternal destiny of the Christian. Paul once said, “Be not deceived: evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33, ASV). Contrariwise, good companions promote faithfulness to God. “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” is found in Hebrews 10:24. The effect Christians are to have on one another yields love and good works. The Lord is in the midst of even two or three who have gathered together in His name (Mt. 18:20). How much more circumspectly, then, should Christians regard their Lord’s command to be present at all the gatherings of the church for worship and Bible study both to receive and give the blessing of their fellowship?

“Let Us Lay Aside Every Weight”

Then as now, athletes would use weights for physical conditioning. When the time came for the race, the weight would be laid aside affording the athlete the greatest benefit from the training. The writer of Hebrews said, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us” (Heb. 12:1a). The message is “Stop Sinning!” Unless genuine repentance has taken place, surely sin will beset the Christian. The word “easily” modifying “beset” is sobering. The determination must be made to lay every sin aside.

“Let Us Run with Patience”

“Run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1b). “Patience” here means, “Endure, hold out, stand firm, bear, put up with” (Barclay M. Newman, Jr., p. 189). The Christian race is not a sprint; it is a long distance run which demands endurance. The Lord said, “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Mt. 10:22).

“Let Us Have Grace”

The church and the kingdom are one in the same (Mt. 16:18-19). The kingdom is an unmovable, unshakeable kingdom (Heb. 12:27). The unmerited favor of God extended to the human family provides the motivation for acceptable service to God. The next verse says, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb. 12:28).

“Let Us Go Forth Therefore Unto Him”

The blood of the bullock for the sin offering was poured out at the altar, but the flesh and the remainder was burnt outside the camp because it was a sin offering (Ex. 29:14). The shame and suffering of Christ as the ultimate sin offering is pictured at Calvary or the Place of the Skull and was situated outside the city walls of Jerusalem. The admonition, “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach,” points to a willingness even to suffer shame for living and teaching the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 13:13).

“Let Us Offer the Sacrifice of Praise”

Today, worshipers do not bring animal sacrifices but are themselves “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1-2). Christians offer “the fruit of lips” or the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19) in worship unto God. The Hebrews writer said, “.For with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Heb. 13:15-16). God is pleased with singing, not the playing of instruments of music or the clapping and waiving of the hands, but with singing.

Conclusion

“Let us” be exhorted to faithfulness by studying the wise design of God as presented in Hebrews.

Verses containing the phrase “Let Us” are Hebrews 4:1, 11, 14, 16; 6:1; 10:22, 23, 24; 12:1 (two times), 28; 13:13, 15.