

The Promise Keeper

Hebrews 10:23

Beginning with Hebrews 10:22 and ending three verses later in Hebrews 10:25 there are five “let us” statements. For those of you who enjoy verses that speak of what you and I ought to be doing in this life--rather than what God has been doing from all eternity--then you should be getting excited! But even when we are exhorted to certain actions (Heb. 10:22-25) it’s because we see something in our God. I will only be as strong and faithful in my life as I am convinced that God is strong and faithful in my life. *“Let us hold fast to our confession of hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”* (10:23).

I. Our confession of hope is our expectation that Jesus Christ always appears for us.

“Hope” (Greek: *elpidos*) means “joyful and confident expectation.” It is not the word used for “faith.” Also, this Greek word is much deeper than our modern concept of hope in English. A golfer like me might say, “I hope I win the Masters” but there is no *joyful and confident expectation*. The best way to picture what this word “hope” means is to think of yourself at an airport waiting for a loved one. You are confident he’s coming. You are joyful he’s coming. You have a joyful, confident expectation! To what “joyful and confident expectation” do we confess and hold fast as followers of Jesus Christ?

A. We joyfully and confidently confess that Christ has appeared to put away our sins.

“But now, once in this end of the ages Christ APPEARED to put away our sins by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:26). My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness!

B. We joyfully and confidently confess that Christ is now appearing for us in heaven.

“For Christ entered ... heaven itself, now to APPEAR in the presence of God for us” (Heb. 9:24).

This is why we come boldly before our God in time of need and ask for mercy; Christ is there!

This is the argument of the Apostle Paul throughout; how shall not God freely give us all things!

C. We joyfully and confidently confess that Christ will one day appear for us again.

“Christ will APPEAR a second time, without reference to sin, for us” (Hebrews 9:28). This second appearing will be either at your death or His coming to earth. It is the ushering in of eternity.

II. “Let us” hold to our confession of hope without wavering.

Without wavering means our confession of hope in Jesus is our anchor for living; it is our worldview. Youcef Nadarkhani, father of two, converted to Christianity at the age of 19. He became a pastor in Iran. Three years ago he complained to officials about the coercion his two school age kids faced to renounce Christianity and convert to Islam. He was arrested and tried for his crime of allegiance to Christianity and sentenced to execution. Youcef has been on death row for over 900 days. This is what it means to not waver. Nothing in life is more important than your joyful confidence in Christ.

III. My confession of hope without wavering is due to my God being faithful to His promises.

I am sometimes asked how I feel about the Christian men’s movement called Promise Keepers. I would be more excited if it were called “The Promise Keeper Movement” and the emphasis were more on God’s faithfulness to His promises than our performance. He alone is faithful, not me.

A. He alone is faithful to grant me life worth living.

This life involves a relationship with Him and relationship with others, with no need to hide, no need to be ashamed, no need to bear any guilt. I live life the way it was designed to be lived.

B. He alone is faithful to sustain me in my darkest moments in this life.

His throne of grace sits in a pool of mercy that is immeasurably deep and wide.

C. He alone is faithful to eventually put the world in order.

That Day is coming when the meek will inherit the earth. It’s a done deal. He is faithful.