THEIR SINCERE PERSEVERANCE

**DATE: 8/6/2014 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 10:35-39**

**INTRODUCTION**

These believers had been unrelenting and victorious in their stand for Christ

However, they were now beginning to waver

After reminding them of their past faithfulness,

Paul admonishes them to persevere and receive their reward

**Persevere** - *determination to continue doing something difficult*

**Ephesians 6:18 *– “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”;***

Let’s pray and think on this thought

***“A SINCERE PERSEVERANCE”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

**I. THE “CALL OF CONFIDENCE” - v.35**

***“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward”***

**A. A Call to Confidently ‘Continue’**

***“Cast not away”*** carries the idea of *throwing off* or *throwing away*

This phrase conveys the thought of *a reckless abandon of what is valuable*

How many have over the years made professions of faith and lived for the Lord …

(Some even entering the ministry)

… Only to recklessly throw it all away

The fact is, that we can throw away, in a moment, that which it took a lifetime to accomplish

**A Call to Confidently ‘Continue’**

**B.** **There is a Call for ‘Diligence’** (*persistent effort*)

The word ***“confidence”*** speaks of *boldness coupled with faith*

These Christians had exhibited such faith and boldness in the past

They are exhorted to continue lest they lose their ***“reward”***

***“recompence”* -** *To compensate; to make return of an equivalent for anything given, done or suffered*

**II John 8** says – ***“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward”***

Many will stand empty handed before the Judgment seat of Christ

-- Because they threw away everything

-- Or never bothered to do anything

Paul admonished the Corinthians Believers …

**I Corinthians 9:24 – *“So run that ye may obtain”***

 **THE “CALL OF CONFIDENCE”**

**II. THE “CASE FOR CONTINUANCE” - v.36**

***“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise”***

**A. The Need of Patience**

The word ***“patience”*** means *to bear up under, to endure*

This is the ***patience*** that enables us …

-- To stay by the stuff

-- To be everlastingly at it

No matter what gets thrown our way

Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 9:10 – *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might”***

This all boils down to faithfulness

Faithfulness is the #1 character trait that God Loves /

Demands in His servants

**Luke 18:8 – *“… when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”***

**I Corinthians 15:58 – *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”***

Faithful is something every believer is supposed to be!

It means that we are to be dependable and loyal in all we do for Him (5 star Christians)

Applied to the believer it means being the kind of Christian God can trust

**Quote:** Old Bob Jones Sr. used to say – “*If you ain't faithful, you ain't nothing”*

**The Need of Patience**

**B. Why we need Patience**

Why such need?

So that we can do ***“the will of God”***

If we are to be faithful in our walk with God,

Then we are going to have to come to the place to where the will of God matters most

Every child of God needs to know and do the will of God

Too many Christians mess around and miss out

Few there are, that actually seeks and settle into His will

The priority of our life ought to be the will of God

**Quote:** Someone has well said – “*To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge. To find the will of God is the greatest discovery. To do the will of God is the greatest achievement.”*

Therefore Knowing and Doing the Will of God …

… We continue to, do it Patiently

And when we do

We inherit the Promises of God

***“…that…*** ***ye might receive the promise”***

**THE “CALL OF CONFIDENCE”**

**THE “CASE FOR CONTINUANCE”**

And Paul references the Greatest Promise of all!

**III. THE “COMING OF CHRIST” – v.37**

***“For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry”***

Paul quotes from the Book of **Habakkuk 2:3 *–***

***“For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry,***

***…wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry”***

The Old Testament prophet wondered why God delayed in sending His judgment upon Israel for her sins

God assured him that it would come and that he should patiently wait for it

In like manner, the readers here are to view the coming of Christ as an imminent event

Here is the great incentive for Perseverance

Jesus Christ is coming back!

One of the reasons why so many shrink back and fail is …

That they have no real concept of the fact that Christ is coming back and that there will be a judgment day

Believers must get a hold of this great Truth that Christ is going to rapture His people out of this world

In the book of Luke He gave a parable teaching the importance of being ready for that very moment

**Luke 12:45, 46 – *“But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth His coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;” “The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for Him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers”***

Jesus was describing all kinds of people here—

Unbelievers, Faithless believers, and believers who just didn't know any better concerning His second coming

However, they all had one thing in common

They all said – ***“My Lord delayeth His coming”***

They were not expecting the Master's return, and as a result were not living right

They were living as if they had plenty of time

Jesus said in **Luke 12:46 – *“The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for Him, and at an hour when he is not aware”***

Many are saying today, just as the wicked and unfaithful steward did in **Luke 12:45 – *“My Lord delayeth His coming”***

As a result many professing believers live like the world

If you want to live wholly for God, get focused on Christ and His return

There is no greater incentive to living a sanctified life than the imminent return of Christ

**Quote:** That is why someone said – *“I preach as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the dead today and is coming back tomorrow”*

**THE “CALL OF CONFIDENCE”**

**THE “CASE FOR CONTINUANCE”**

**THE “COMING OF CHRIST”**

And Lastly …

**IV. THE “CONTRAST IS CLEAR” - v.38, 39**

It’s important to understand that Paul is contrasting two different groups here

He first speaks of ***“the just”*** and secondly to those who ***“draw back”***

Paul adds …

***“But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition;***

***but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”***

Let’s look at the two

**A. The ‘Faith’ – v.38**

First there is group who believe to the saving of the soul and are called ***the just***

These are the truly saved believers whose lives have matched their profession

They did / do; live by faith

***“Now the just shall live by faith:”***

**Romans 1:17 – *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith”***

**Galatians 3:11 – *“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith”***

**Habakkuk 2:4b – *“… but the just shall live by his faith”*** (this is the 2nd time he quotes this Book)

A ***“just”*** person is one who has been declared to be righteous because he has been made righteous in Christ

**Romans 5:1 – *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”***

The justified believer is now to live by faith

A person exercises saving faith when he initially places his trust in Christ

They then continue to live by Faith

**Hebrews 11:6 - *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

**B. The ‘Failure’ – v.39**

***“But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”***

Second, there is a another group described as those

***“who draw back unto perdition”***

These didn't believe to the saving of the soul

They were never justified

Understand that not everyone who makes a profession of faith or joins a Church is actually saved

The Tares and Wheat of **Matthew 13** …

The word ***“perdition”*** means *utter destruction*

This word is used to describe Judas who was clearly a lost man

**John 17:12 – *“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy Name: those that thou gavest Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled”***

Judas did not get saved and then lose his salvation,

Judas was an impostor, he never was saved

**John 13:10, 11 – *“Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all” “For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, Ye are not all clean”***

Judas put on a good show and fooled many, but he eventually drew back (probably even himself)

Judas's departure was evidence of an unregenerate heart

**I John 2:19** says – ***“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us”***

Judas was not a son of God but the son of perdition and his life followed that course

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “CALL OF CONFIDENCE”**

**THE “CASE FOR CONTINUANCE”**

**THE “COMING OF CHRIST”**

**THE “CONTRAST IS CLEAR”**