Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

5 April 2015 (Easter) Message 8 of 12

NLT 40 Minutes

**Resurrection Benefits**

Title

***Hebrews 10:19-39***

**Topic:** Resurrection

**Subject:** What are some benefits of believing in Christ’s resurrection?

**Complement:** Christ’s resurrection motivates us to press on.

**Purpose:** The listeners will persevere in believing in Christ’s resurrection.

**Meditation:** Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we process,
for he who promised is faithful.”

**Reading:** Hebrews

**Song:** “I Repent” (Steve Green)

# Introduction

### Interest: Most people believe Jesus died, but do you believe that he rose from the dead?

Hole

Cross
(3 slides)

#### Some who doubt Christ’s resurrection say the early Christians went to the wrong tomb—a ridiculous accusation. Skeptics would just lead them to the right one!

Story

Wrong tomb

#### Others say Christians made up the story later on to bolster their numbers. Really?

Women

##### They made up a story with women as eyewitnesses whose testimony was not considered valid in court?

Martyrs

##### Early Christians died for what they knew was a lie!?

Thomas hole in side

#### Today I’m not going to try to convince skeptics that Jesus rose from the dead.

Grave clothes

##### If you doubt this, let’s meet together privately and discuss it.

Old lady & clothes

Addressing believers

##### Instead, I am addressing believers, but…

##### Sometimes we see clearly but don’t understand! So…

### Need: How does your belief that Jesus rose from the dead change your life? Do you know the significance of the clothes?

Tomb change life

Jesus as Priest

Advocate

Garden Tomb sign

Walking out tomb

Grave Clothes

#### We have been studying the high priestly ministry of Christ the past several weeks.

#### This presumes he is alive as our advocate. Dead priests do nothing—good or bad!

#### But what difference in your life does Jesus being alive make?

#### Believing in Christ’s resurrection has many advantages, or benefits. What might be some of these?

### Subject: What are some benefits of believing in Christ’s resurrection?

### Background: The original readers of today’s text had already believed in the resurrection of Christ—but that belief was being tested in the most severe way they had ever known.

Backgrd

They had believed

The Better Things

• Superior work

#### [Literary Context]

##### The author just finished telling many ways that Christ is superior to Judaism—first as a superior person to everyone in the OT.

##### This ended at Hebrews 10:18 where he completed his discussion of Christ’s superior work.

#### [Theological Context]

##### But we can get very heady regarding theological truth—even something as important as Christ’s ministry as our resurrected high priest in heaven. So now he begins to tell them to endure by faith.

• Endure by faith

##### We must put this belief into practice! So today’s passage tells us how to press on rather than getting disciplined.

Press on!

#### Historical context shows the letter to be sent from Rome to Israel.

Map

Leveled

##### This letter was written some 35 years after Christ’s death and resurrection. That means 35 years after the temple veil spilt from top to bottom. Yet the sacrificial system continued on.

8:13

##### The Jewish rebellion in Israel was underway against Rome. It came to such an extent that Jewish revolutionaries took up arms against Rome in AD 66.

Jewish War

###### The Jews retreated to Jerusalem, which the Romans surrounded with a siege wall to prevent any from escaping.

Siege Wall

###### The temple had stood for almost 600 years.

Sanctuary

###### Was this temple worth defending?

From East

###### Roman soldiers first seized the Antonia Fortress on the northeast corner of the Temple Mount.

Antonia

###### Then the Romans demolished nearly the entire fortress to pave the way for a systematic destruction of the temple.

###### The battle ensued where Jewish priests and commoners were no match for the professional soldiers, who killed them by the thousands.

Assault

###### But before this time, Jerusalem also had many Christians. This letter addressed believing Jews during these years of the Jewish-Roman War (AD 66-73).

Christians Jerusalem

##### The question for Christian Jews was simply this: Should they also join with their unbelieving Jewish brothers to fight against Rome? Should they risk their lives to preserve the obsolete temple system instead of persevering in their belief in a risen Savior?

Stay and fight?

### Preview: Today we will witness three benefits the author gave to convince them to maintain their belief in Christ’s resurrection.

3 benefits

### Text: Hebrews 10:19-39 is not your typical Easter text, but the foundation of it all was Christ’s resurrection.

• Text

(The first benefit of believing in Christ’s resurrection is...)

Title

Title

Title

Title

# I. Encouragement: Christ’s resurrection brings us close to God and man (10:19-25).

MP

[Jesus being alive draws us towards the Lord and people.]

## His superiority as High Priest exhorts us to *draw near* to Him (10:19-22).

Our High Priest

### What is the main verb in this long, 55-word sentence in the Greek (10:19-22)?

19-22

• Draw near

#### The key exhortation is for us to “draw near” to God (10:22 NAU NIV).

#### The NLT aptly renders this “let us go right into the presence of God.”

Alive!

23-25

NLT Hands

### The fact that Jesus is alive means that we can know him!

(What is the main verb in this other long sentence that goes 37 words? The two verbs are “hold tightly” in verse 23 and “consider” in verse 24…)

## His faithfulness exhorts us to *hold fast* to true doctrine (10:23).

23

## His soon return encourages us to regularly meet together to love one another in good deeds (10:24-25).

25

24

### About 42% of US Christians believe Christ will return before 2054, but the closer we get to the return of Christ, the more we need to meet together for mutual encouragement.

42%

###  Anyway, we’re glad you’re here today!

Glad you’re here today!

(So the first benefit of believing in Christ’s resurrection is encouragement: Christ’s resurrection brings us close to God and man. The second benefit of believing in Christ’s resurrection is...)

MPI

# II. Protection: Christ’s resurrection delivers us from many difficulties (10:26-31).

MP

[Believers who reject the resurrection face untold troubles.]

Warnings
(5 slides)

[We have already seen three other warnings in this book—of discipline, disinheritance, and death. Now we’ll see warning 4 that also cautions again premature death.]

## Their willful sin would incur a fiery death with unbelievers when the Romans would soon burn Jerusalem (10:26-27).

26-27

### Are the persons who sin in these verses Christians (10:26-31)? Yes!

Yes

• Christian?

#### The letter repeatedly refers to the readers as believers.

Why believers?

#### They had already professed this hope in Christ (10:23).

#### They should build one another up in the faith (10:24-25).

#### They had “received the knowledge of the truth” (10:26).

#### The author also could sin like this (10:26).

#### They had been “sanctified” (10:29).

#### They had faithfully suffered for Christ (10:32-34).

#### They had confidence in the Lord (10:35).

#### They needed only to persevere in that faith (10:36).

Title

Title

#### They were deemed among “the righteous” (10:38).

### How do scholars see perseverance and God’s discipline for the believer who turns away (10:26-31)?

Will persevere?

#### Reformed: All persevere so apostasy cannot happen—security but no assurance.

• Arminian

• Reformed

#### Arminians claim they experience *hell*, but these readers are believers and thus already saved from hell in light of the scriptural evidence for eternal security (cf. John 3:16; 10:28-29; Eph. 1:14; 1 John 5:11-13).

28-29

Title

Title

#### Partakers say they lose their *rewards* (Dillow, 542), but the fire here consumes “the enemies of God” (10:27b). It will burn up people, not burn up rewards.

• Partakers

#### The immediate historical situation of the Jewish rebellion against Rome argues that it refers to *physical death* in the fires of Jerusalem.

Happened
• Pella

##### Many Christians, of course, lived in Israel—like these Hebrew readers.

Christians

Israel Map

##### But the Jewish War forced all Jews to find refuge in Jerusalem

##### So what happened to Jerusalem Christians? A revelation led them to Pella.

##### The believers left Jerusalem before Rome destroyed it in AD 70.

Christians left

##### No Christian was left in the city—but would these readers go with them?

City Map

##### The fire of 10:27 is not hell fire but Jerusalem fire!

Fire of 10:27

##### The application to leave Jerusalem is in Hebrews 13.

“Leave”

##### Jeremiah 24 commanded a similar thing 600 years earlier.

Jer. 24

## Death came to defiant believers in the OT, so discipline at least this severe would come to rejecting the Christ they knew (10:28-31).

OT Discipline

### Numbers 15:22-29 specifies sin offerings for Jewish believers who sinned unintentionally. But what should Israel do when God specifically told them not to work on the Sabbath on the penalty of death?

Sticks

### Numbers 15:30-36 specifies death for capital crimes. Here was the case of intentional sin where a man caught in deliberate sin was stoned.

• 28

### Isn’t picking up sticks far less severe than a believer rejecting our Risen Lord Jesus?

29

### “This kind of spiritual rebellion clearly calls for a much worse punishment than the capital penalty that was inflicted under the Mosaic setup. But again the writer was not thinking of hell. Many forms of divine retribution can fall on a human life which are worse than immediate death. In fact, Jeremiah made just such a complaint about the punishment inflicted on Jerusalem (Lam. 4:6, 9). One might think also of King Saul, whose last days were burdened with such mental and emotional turmoil that death itself was a kind of release” (Zane C. Hodges, BKC, 2:806).

Hodges Quote

## Our holding to Christ’s identity as resurrected high priest also keeps us from huge dilemmas. For one, it keeps God from having to discipline us severely as verses 30-31 say.

Believers

30-31

MPII

MPI

(So believing in Christ’s resurrection gives us encouragement and protection. The third benefit of believing in Christ’s resurrection is...)

# III. Endurance: Christ’s resurrection reignites our past faithfulness (10:32-39).

MP

[We regain our previous zeal when we confess that Jesus is alive now.]

## Remember the courage you had for Christ in the past (10:32-34).

32

33-34

Zeal

### Do you remember your own courage and zeal after trusting Christ?

### I recall staying up regularly to 2 AM devouring God’s Word. I had never read a book like the Bible before! I remember telling dozens of my high school friends about Christ. I also remember being punished by my parents for my faith.

## Rekindle that confidence to be rewarded, not disciplined (10:35-39).

35-36

### Joseph Dillow wrote *Final Destiny*, an excellent book about our rewards.

• Final Destiny

### Those who persevere will reign on this earth as servant kings of Christ.

Crown

### This reign will happen sooner than any of us imagine! He is coming soon!

37

### The two choices in verses 38-39 should make our decision easier.

38-39

Subj

#### We can choose to shrink back to destruction, meaning physical death. This word means “1. to draw back or disappear from a position… 2. to be hesitant in regard to something” (BDAG 1041).

#### But “shrink *back*” in 10:39 contrasts with “draw *near*” in 10:22. Which will we do? We can believe and the result will be, literally, “preserving of the soul.” This does not refer to salvation but means “persistence in the faith preserves an individual from the calamities that overtake those who ‘shrink back’” (Hodges, BKC, 807).

(How to sum up this text? Belief in Christ’s resurrection gives us 1 key benefit that sums up all 3…)

# Conclusion

### Christ’s resurrection motivates us to press on (Main Idea).

MI

3 Benefits

MPI

MPII

### Hebrews gives three benefits of keeping our faith in a risen Savior:

#### Encouragement: Christ’s resurrection brings us close to God and man (10:19-25).

#### Protection: Christ’s resurrection delivers us from many difficulties (10:26-31).

#### Endurance: Christ’s resurrection reignites our past faithfulness (10:32-39).

MPIII

### Do you need to renew your faith in the resurrection?

Renewal?

#### A Muslim became a Christian in Africa. "Some of his friends asked him, 'Why have you become a Christian?' He answered, 'Well, it’s like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men, one dead and one alive—which one would you ask which way to go?'" (Story by Dr. Seamands in Warren Webster, April, 1980, *HIS*, p. 13).

African Christian

#### “The good news is not that Jesus lived and died, but that He died and lives” —M. R. De Haan

The Risen Christ

De Haan

### We worship the Risen Christ!

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### The author has finally finished telling us many ways that Christ is superior to Judaism.

### This ended at Hebrews 10:18 where he completed his discussion of Christ’s sacrifice as the final one.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### We can get very heady regarding theological truth—even something as important as Christ’s ministry as our resurrected high priest in heaven.

### We must put this belief into practice! This passage tells us how to do this in terms of pressing on rather than getting disciplined.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### This letter was written some 35 years after Christ’s death and resurrection. That means 35 years after the temple veil spilt from top to bottom. Yet the sacrificial system continued on.

### The rebellion of the Jews in Israel continued to intensify against Rome. It came to such an extent that Jewish revolutionaries took up arms against Rome in AD 66. This letter addressed believing Jews during these years of the Jewish-Roman War (AD 66-73).

### The question for Christian Jews was simply this: Should they also join with their unbelieving Jewish brothers to fight against Rome? Should they risk their lives to preserve the obsolete temple system?

# Questions

### Does “we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place” (10:19 NLT) mean that heaven has a special room?

#### The NLT is unfortunate here, implying that we’re talking about rooms in heaven.

#### The idea is actually that heaven itself is the holiest place, and we can have confidence to approach God.

### What is the main verb in this long sentence that goes 55 words (10:19-22)?

#### The key exhortation is for us to “draw near” to God (10:22 NAU NIV).

#### The NLT renders this “let us go right into the presence of God,” which carries the idea well.

### What is the main verb in this other long sentence that goes 37 words (10:23-25)?

#### The two verbs are “hold fast” (10:23a) and “consider” (10:24a).

#### His faithfulness exhorts us to hold fast to true doctrine (10:23).

#### His soon return encourages us to meet together to love one another (10:24-25).

### Are the persons who sin in these verses Christians (10:26-31)? Yes!

#### The letter repeatedly refers to the readers as believers.

#### They had already professed this hope in Christ (10:23).

#### They were encouraged as believers to build one another up in the faith (10:24-25).

#### They had “received the knowledge of the truth” (10:26).

#### The author includes himself among those who could sin to this extent (10:26).

#### They had been “sanctified” (10:29).

#### They had faithfully suffered for Christ (10:32-34).

#### They had confidence in the Lord (10:35).

#### They needed only to persevere in that faith (10:36).

Title

Title

Title

#### They were deemed among “the righteous” (10:38).

### How can a believer sin so that “no sacrifice for sins is left” when Jesus has already been his final sacrifice (10:26)?

#### Christ’s blood atones for our sin. This protects us from the guilt, shame and consequences of sin in this life and the next.

#### However, the believer who deliberately, defiantly and willfully rejects Christ will find that Christ’s death does not protect him from the consequence of death—God actually taking that person’s physical life.

#### “The KJV translation here, ‘if we sin willfully,’ is superior to NIV’S ‘if we deliberately keep on sinning,’ as the words ‘keep on’ overplay the Greek tense” (Zane C. Hodges, *BKC*, 2:806).

### What is God’s discipline for the believer who turns away (10:26-31)?

#### Some claim they experience *hell*, but these readers are believers and thus already saved from hell in light of the scriptural evidence for eternal security (cf. John 3:16; 10:28-29; Eph. 1:14; 1 John 5:11-13).

#### Others say they lose their *rewards*, but the fire here consumes “the enemies of God” (10:27b). It will burn up people, not burn up rewards.

#### The immediate historical situation of the Jewish rebellion against Rome argues that it refers to *physical death* in the fires of Jerusalem. Such was the case of deliberate sin in Numbers 15:30-36, where a man caught in deliberate sin was stoned.

#### “This kind of spiritual rebellion clearly calls for a much worse punishment than the capital penalty that was inflicted under the Mosaic setup. But again the writer was not thinking of hell. Many forms of divine retribution can fall on a human life which are worse than immediate death. In fact, Jeremiah made just such a complaint about the punishment inflicted on Jerusalem (Lam. 4:6, 9). One might think also of King Saul, whose last days were burdened with such mental and emotional turmoil that death itself was a kind of release” (Zane C. Hodges, *BKC*, 2:806).

### What does it mean to “shrink back” (10:38-39)?

#### The Greek work uJposte÷llw means “1. to draw back or disappear from a position… 2. to be hesitant in regard to something” (BDAG 1041).

#### The context contrasts “draw back” in 10:39 with “draw near” in 10:22. Which will we do?

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

# We all act based on what we do *not* see—our behavior in life is based on the unseen, not the seen.

### Some of us are “two timers”—we come to church only on Easter and Christmas.

“Two Timers”

### About 42% of US Christians believe Christ will return before 2054, but the closer we get to the return of Christ, the more we need to meet together for mutual encouragement. In any case, we’re glad you’re here today!

42%

Glad you’re here today!

EASTER convinces us Christ is alive

[Of Morse Code and Easter Messages](http://illustrationexchange.us2.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=181c69bf3d2275e6dc9157a34&id=c5687c522c&e=aa849ca33b)

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Daily Readings on America, January 6th:

As a young man, Samuel Morse set out to become a famous painter. His ambition was "to rival the genius of a Raphael, a Michelangelo, or a Titian." He studied at the Royal Academy in London and won acclaim by painting portraits of men such as President James Monroe and the Marquis de Lafayette.

In 1832, onboard a ship crossing the ocean, Morse heard another passenger describe how electricity could pass instantly over any length of wire. He began to wonder: Could messages be sent over wires with electricity? He rushed back to his cabin, took out his drawing book, and began to sketch out his idea for a telegraph.

He knew little about electricity, but he learned as he went. He used a homemade battery and parts from an old clock to build his first models. He developed a code of long and short electrical impulses-"dots" and "dashes"-to represent letters. His invention raised the interest of Alfred Vail, a machinist who became his partner.

On January 6, 1838, the inventors were ready to test their device over two miles of wire at the Vail family ironworks in New Jersey. Vail's father scribbled "A patient waiter is no loser" on a piece of paper and handed it to his son. "If you can send this and Mr. Morse can read it at the other end, I shall be convinced," he said. A short time later, his words came out on the receiving end.

On May 24, 1844, an amazed crowd in the Supreme Court chambers in Washington, D.C., watched Samuel Morse demonstrate his telegraph by sending a message over a wire to Baltimore, 35 miles away. In Morse code, he tapped out a quote from the Bible: What hath God wrought!

Soon telegraph lines linked countries and continents, and the world entered the age of modern communication.

**Application**:

The diehard skeptic Mr. Vail, who penned his message saying, "If you can send this and Mr. Morse can read it, I shall be convinced" was indeed convinced. At the time, it was the greatest communication either sent or received.

On Easter morning, an infinitely more powerful message was sent and has since been received by millions upon millions. "He is not here; He is risen!" (Matthew 28:6). "Look what God has wrought!"

Won't you allow yourself to be convinced? Place your faith and trust in God's message of redemption communicated so clearly through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ!

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Resurrection Benefits**

***Hebrews 10:19-39***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The results of believing in Christ’s high priesthood was perseverance and avoiding death in the Roman fires (10:19-39).

# I. The result of embracing Christ’s high priesthood is closeness to God and man (10:19-25).

## His superiority exhorts us to draw near to Him (10:19-22).

## His faithfulness exhorts us to hold fast to true doctrine (10:23).

## His soon return encourages us to meet together to love one another (10:24-25).

# II. Fourth Warning: The result of persevering belief was escaping death in Roman fires[[1]](#footnote-1) (10:26-31).

## Their willful sin would incur a fiery death with unbelievers when the Romans would soon burn Jerusalem (10:26-27).

## Death came to defiant believers in the OT, so discipline at least this severe would come to rejecting the Christ they knew (10:28-31).

# III. The result of persevering belief was reigniting their past faithfulness (10:32-39).

## Remember the courage you had for Christ in the past (10:32-34).

## Rekindle that confidence to be rewarded, not disciplined (10:35-39).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will persevere in believing in Christ’s resurrection.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Do you believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead?

### Need: How does your belief that Jesus rose from the dead change your life?

### Subject: What are some benefits of believing in Christ’s resurrection?

### Background: The original readers of today’s text had already believed in the resurrection of Christ—but that belief was being tested in the most severe way they had ever known.

### Preview: Today we will witness three benefits the author gave to convince them to maintain their belief in Christ’s resurrection.

### Text: Hebrews 10:19-39 is not your typical Easter text, but the foundation of it all was Christ’s resurrection.

# I. Encouragement: Christ’s resurrection brings us close to God and man (10:19-25).

## His superiority exhorts us to draw near to Him (10:19-22).

## His faithfulness exhorts us to hold fast to true doctrine (10:23).

## His soon return encourages us to regularly meet together to love one another in good deeds (10:24-25).

# II. Protection: Christ’s resurrection delivers us from many difficulties (10:26-31).

## Their willful sin would incur a fiery death with unbelievers when the Romans would soon burn Jerusalem (10:26-27).

## Death came to defiant believers in the OT, so discipline at least this severe would come to rejecting the Christ they knew (10:28-31).

## Our holding to Christ’s identity as resurrected high priest also keeps us from huge dilemmas.

# III. Endurance: Christ’s resurrection reignites our past faithfulness (10:32-39).

## Remember the courage you had for Christ in the past (10:32-34).

## Rekindle that confidence to be rewarded, not disciplined (10:35-39).

# Conclusion

### Christ’s resurrection motivates us to press on (Main Idea).

### Do you need to renew your faith in the resurrection?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

5 April 2015

Message 8 of 12

**Resurrection Benefits**

***Hebrews 10:19-39***

# Introduction

### Do you believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead?

### How does your belief that Jesus rose from the dead change your life?

### What are some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of believing in Christ’s resurrection?

# I. Encouragement: Christ’s resurrection brings us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God and man (10:19-25).

## His superiority exhorts us to draw near to Him (10:19-22).

## His faithfulness exhorts us to hold fast to true doctrine (10:23).

## His soon return encourages us to regularly meet together to love one another in good deeds (10:24-25).

# II. Protection: Christ’s resurrection delivers us from many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10:26-31).

## Their willful sin would incur a fiery death with unbelievers when the Romans would soon burn Jerusalem (10:26-27).



## Death came to defiant believers in the OT, so discipline at least this severe would come to rejecting the Christ they knew (10:28-31).

## Our holding to Christ’s identity as resurrected high priest also keeps us from huge dilemmas.

# III. Endurance: Christ’s resurrection reignites our past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (10:32-39).

## Remember the courage you had for Christ in the past (10:32-34).

## Rekindle that confidence to be rewarded, not disciplined (10:35-39).

# Conclusion

### Christ’s resurrection motivates us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

### Do you need to renew your faith in the resurrection? How?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read the passage aloud. List each motivation the author gives to persevere in faith:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Verses** | **Motivation** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. Do you believe in the resurrection of Christ? Since when or why not?

Text

1. What one thing would you do differently if you ***really*** grasped the truth of Christ’s resurrection?

Text

1. This context (as in 6:4-8) refers to believers since the author includes *himself* among those who could possibly sin to this extent (10:26) and since he had just encouraged these people as *believers* to hold to their confession and to mutually build one another up in the faith (10:23-25). In light of the scriptural evidence for eternal security (cf. John 3:16; 10:28-29; Eph. 1:14; 1 John 5:11-13), the fire judgment referred to here (10:27) must not mean hell, but a judgment for believers–most likely temporal fire that soon engulfed Jerusalem’s unbelieving Jews (see “Occasion,” p. 257). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)