

PATHFINDERS

ST. LAWRENCE HEBREWS 13:1-10 20 JUNE, 2021



Intro	<p>Some days the Christian life can feel like such a slog. Some days you feel like you take two steps forward in your walk with Jesus and two steps back. We need endurance to run the race with Jesus in this life. We need endurance to pick up our Cross and follow Jesus. God tells us how in this Scripture today. The author of Hebrews wants to make sure that his listeners understand how to live the Christian life (hint... it's not by white-knuckling your way through it, it's through Jesus' power!)</p>
Read	<p>Hebrews 13:1-10 (NIV UK)</p> <p>13 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. ³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.</p> <p>⁴ Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,</p> <p>‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’</p> <p>⁶ So we say with confidence,</p> <p>‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’</p> <p>⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.</p> <p>⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of</p>

no benefit to those who do so. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

Watch



Here's a really great overview of the book of Hebrews in under 10 minutes, in case you need to remind yourself of where we are in the book!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs>

Think

The letter to the Hebrews is coming to its conclusion, and to wrap up everything he's been talking about, the author encourages the Hebrew Christians to keep going. He throws in lots of things that should be typical of life as a Christian.

What are the things that the author encourages the Hebrews to do (verses 1-10)? Write them down on a separate piece of paper.

The text has tonnes of examples of things that should be typical in the life of a Christian. But the author doesn't expect the Hebrews to be able to just do these things on their own power. He doesn't just throw them out there because they sound good. No, he recognises that unless they have Jesus helping them, they won't be able to do the things they should do to honour Jesus in their lives.

What does the author say is the thing that can be said with confidence (verse 6)? Why can we say that with confidence?

In the middle of our Scripture passage, we see the source of everything we do as Christians. If we were able to live the Christian life in our own power, what would be the need for Jesus? So, a major theme of this letter is endurance. We must continue to run the race that we started running when we became believers in Jesus. But where does the confidence to keep on running come from when we start to become tired and weary? It comes from the very reason we started running in the first place: in Jesus alone. See, our hearts are so very prone to wander and get tired, so we need encouragement to keep on going, and to keep on going in the right path. Our encouragement comes from the fact that God has promised to *never* leave us! Have you ever been running with a friend who got tired and left you as you kept on running? How about a friend who was out with you and decided they wanted to do something else and left you alone? Well, we can be assured that Jesus won't ever leave us. He's promised to be that friend and guide that will always be by our side and give us the strength we need to keep on running when we are tired.

What is the example we should imitate as we continue running our race of faith? (verse 7)

As we run on, we must keep listening to sound (good) Bible teaching. It's the thing that directs us. It's the thing that guides us. It keeps us running on the correct path to where we ought to be going. The passage encourages us to "consider the outcome of their (the leaders who spoke the word of God to you) way of life and imitate their faith." We should look to people who've made their trust in Jesus the centre of their lives and who live out the Gospel. We should look at their faith and see how it has blessed them to live the way Jesus has called us to live, and we should try to imitate that. We imitate them not because they are so great, but because Jesus (**and he will never change! Verse 8**) is so great and has shone through His grace through their lives because of obedience to His Word, the Bible.

What should we avoid? (verse 9)

Stay away from teaching that doesn't have at its centre the Bible. Stay away from strange teaching that doesn't focus on Jesus and the Gospel. There are those traditions and people who claim the name of Jesus but don't live their lives according to the Bible. We should avoid them because they will lead us off the path that Jesus would have us keep on, and they will make us weary. Earlier in this letter, the author encourages: "*let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*" Sin gets us entangled up and makes us tired because we are struggling to run the race of the Christian life but keep having to fight off the sin that's around our legs keeping us planted in the ground. So, let's throw off that weight of sin by looking to Jesus in good Bible teaching that faithful leaders give us, by reminding ourselves of Jesus' love for us by reading His Word in the Bible, and by continually praying each day, telling God what is keeping us from running the race, what's making us tired, and asking Him to help our eyes be fixed on Jesus so that we won't become discouraged.

Listen



Because we know that Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (verse 8), we can be encouraged that just as He has been with us in the past, He will continue to be with us forever. This song reflects on that.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vsgXq-Xng>

Pray

- Thank God that He has promised to never leave us and ask Him to help you remember that He is always with you-when times are hard and when times are good.
- Ask God to show you where it is that you have grown tired running the race in your life, asking Him to show you sin that

	<p>has tangled you up that you need to confess to Him and get back up to run again.</p>
--	---