

Hebrews 10:23 8.20.17 #cccsermons

Together: Let Us Series – Hebrews 10:22-25

God designed each individual with the need for **TOGETHERNESS**.

- So God designed each individual with the need to develop a relationship with both God and others. After all, we are not just called to believe, but we are called to **BELONG** and work **TOGETHER** to grow in faith.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) ²³ *Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) ²³ *Let us hold...*

- When we are together, God can do great things **in us** and **through US**. (see **Acts 2:42-47**)
- When you come to church, not only are you able to be equipped and empowered, but YOU **ENERGIZE** all of US to stay strong and hold on to our faith.
- And, the devil doesn't want you together, so he will do everything in his power to make sure you do life **ALONE**.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) ²³ *Let us hold unwaveringly...*

- Simply put, we are not only to know **WHAT** we believe, but **WHY** we believe it.

Why do we swerve from our path?

#1 We swerve when we lose FOCUS.

- **It is impossible to move forward in life if you don't know where to focus.** God has a better plan for you than you do, but you must trust Him to lead you on it.

#2 We swerve when something UNEXPECTED impedes our path.

- Don't get **DISTRACTED** by the things of this world and swerve from the things of God.
- Even though we are designed for relationships with others, know that not all relationships are **BENEFICIAL**.
- The devil is always trying to impede our path and focus. After all, if the devil can't make you evil, he will make you busy. He will do anything to keep you from your Word, from your church and from growing. (see **James 4:7**)
- **Don't just REACT to life, but stay focused on God and His will for your life.**

#3 We swerve when we feel that we know a better way.

- The scariest thing is that **we think** we know what's best for us. (see **Proverbs 14:12** and **16:25**)
- Jesus said in **Matthew 7:13-14** (NIV) ¹³ *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*
- Jesus wants us on the straight and narrow because He knows that the broad road that everyone else is on leads to destruction AND **when we are on the narrow path, there isn't anywhere to go except forward.**
- I pray that we all become **NARROW-MINDED** and stay focused on God's will and plan for our lives!

Hebrews was written to stop Jewish believers from leaving their faith in Jesus and going back to Judaism. The Jewish Christians were being persecuted for their faith and they began to think that it might be easier just to go back to Judaism..

- There will be a number of things in life that will cause us to doubt, so we must hold unwaveringly to the faith we profess! (see **James 1:6-8**)
- **“It will become increasingly more vital that we learn to distinguish between what is pro-Christian and what is actually Christ-like”.** Quote by Beth Moore
- What makes something right is whether or not it is **VALIDATED** by the Word of God.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) ²³ *Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess*

- Webster defines “hope” as a feeling of what is wanted **will happen**.
- When you can't find answers to the questions of life, then **DOUBT** invades and hope evades. When you start to doubt, you become cynical and skeptical and then you eventually quit your faith all together. Today's society is gifted at **QUITTING**. God doesn't want us to quit.
- He designed us unique and with a **PURPOSE**. (see **Ephesians 2:10**)

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”.*

- **#1 Set apart Christ as LORD in your life.**
- Doubt happens when you **STOP SEEKING!**
- **#2 Always be PREPARED to share the hope you have.**
- We need to know what we believe, believe it, and then spread it!
- **#3 Share it in a LOVING way!**
- Be careful how you come across because we are supposed to be known for our love! (see **John 13:35**)

According to today's passage, our hope rests on faith, and at the same time hope QUICKENS faith.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) ²³ *Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*

- **The writer here challenges us to hold fast and true to what you believe because He is faithful!** His plan is greater than our plan and He promises that He will be faithful until we are complete. (see **Philippians 1:6**)
- **Philippians 1:6** (NIV) ⁶ *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

So what?

#1 Our faith needs to be DEVELOPED!

- Just believing in God is not enough, we must develop our faith.
- One of the places where we can develop and strengthen our faith is at church or around other believers.

#2 Our faith needs DETERMINATION!

- We need to remain true to God's teachings without wavering, waffling or flip flopping.
- God has a plan for you and He wants you to stick to it.

This world is radioactive and is trying to convince you that there is nothing to live for. **Jesus showed us that there is a way to live that's worth dying for.**

- The **CHURCH** really is the hope of the world.