

Lenten Devotional Reflection
27 March 2020 (Lent Day 27)

Scripture: Hebrews 10:26-39 (King James Version -- KJV)

- 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,
- 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.
- 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:
- 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?
- 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.
- 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
- 32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;
- 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.
- 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.
- 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
- 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
- 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
- 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
- 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Message

According to the commentaries by William Barclay:

'(1) Hebrews 10:26-31)

- (1.1) Every now and again the writer to the Hebrews speaks with a sternness that is almost without parallel in the New Testament. Few writers have such a sense of

the sheer horror of sin. The writer to the Hebrews has this horror of sin for two reasons.

- (1,1.1) First, he lived in a day when the Church had been under attack and would be under new attack again. Its greatest peril was from the possible evil living and apostasy of its members. The unsatisfactory Christian undermines the very foundations of the Church.
- (1,1.2) Second, he was sure that sin had become doubly serious because of the new knowledge of God and of God's will which Jesus had brought. If a person knowingly commits a crime, the punishment must be doubled.
- (1.2) The gives us three definitions of sin:
 - (1.2.1) Sin is to trample Christ under foot.
 - (1.2.2) Sin is the failure to see the sacredness of sacred things.
 - (1.2.3) Sin is the insult to the Holy Spirit.

(2) (**Hebrews 10 : 32-39**)

- (2.1) When first they had become Christians they had known persecution and plundering of their goods. They had met that situation with gallantry and with honour, and now they were in danger of drifting away from their faith.
- (2.2) It is a truth of life that in many ways it is easier to stand adversity than to stand prosperity. Ease has ruined far more men than trouble ever did.
- (2.3) Ease had ruined them when struggle had only toughened them. That is often true of Christian life. Often a man can meet with honour the great hour of testing and of trial; and yet let the time of plain sailing sap his strength and emasculate his faith.
- (2.4) A man's goal should "be what you were at your best in the Lord." To achieve this goal, we must do the following:
 - (2.4.1) We need to keep our hope before us. The athlete will make his great effort because the goal beckons him on. He will submit to the discipline of training because of the end in view.
 - (2.4.2) We need fortitude. Perseverance is one of the great unromantic virtues, and the greatest gift of all is to keep walking forward and not to faint.
 - (2.4.3) We need the memory of the end. God will see people through their present situation. The victory comes only to the man who holds on.
 - (2.4.4) Life is a thing that is on its way to the presence of God. It is therefore only the man who endures to the end would be saved.' (Abstracts from William Barclay)

Reflection

- (1) "Hebrews 10:32" says, "But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured **a great fight** of afflictions;" The original "**a great fight**" here means "athlete's competition." Compare it with St. Paul's words in Philippians 3: 13-14, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What special teachings do these two passages give us?
- (2) "Hebrews 10:33" said, "Ye were made a gazingstock," and St. Paul said in "1 Corinthians 4: 9", "For we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men." What special teachings do they have?

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