

Are You Forsaking? Really?



The book of Hebrews was written to a group of Christians who had “endured a hard struggle with sufferings” (Hebrews 10:32). They were “exposed to reproach and affliction” (Hebrews 10:33). They witnessed their brothers and sisters being thrown into prison. They themselves “joyfully accepted the plundering of [their] property” (Hebrews 10:34).

It appears this letter was written to Christians who experienced the “great persecution against the church in Jerusalem” (Acts 8:1). Back then, these Jewish Christians endured this persecution with joy and faith. But now, decades later, their joy and faith seem to be wavering. Some are ready to abandon the way of Jesus.

The book of Hebrews is written to prevent that falling away. It is written to show that our covenant with Jesus is better than the old covenant. Jesus is a better high priest, who entered a better tabernacle, to offer a better sacrifice, and give to His people a better inheritance based upon a better guarantee. To abandon Jesus would be the worst mistake anyone could ever make!

Hebrews 10 describes the fact that without Jesus, there is no forgiveness of sins. Jesus was the only sacrifice for “all people” for “all time” (Hebrews 10:10-14). Therefore, if a person rejects the sacrifice Jesus made on their behalf, there remains no other way for them to be saved. The writer is encouraging them to “hold fast...without wavering” (vs. 23). He is warning them not to “trample under foot the Son of God” or “profane the blood of the covenant by which they were sanctified” (vs. 29). He warns them not to “throw away their confidence” (vs. 35) or to be like those who “shrink back and are destroyed” (vs. 39). It is only in the context of words and phrases like these that we can begin to understand what it means to “forsake assembling.”

The verse Hebrews 10:25 is quite often quoted by itself, but it is actually not even a complete sentence. The whole sentence of Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) says: “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Are you ready for the approaching Day? Do you want others to be ready for that Day too?

The word translated “forsaking” is used several other times in the New Testament:

- 📖 Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you *forsaken* me?” (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).
- 📖 God did not “*abandon*” Jesus in the realm of the dead (Acts 2:27, 31).
- 📖 Paul said they were “persecuted, but not *forsaken*” (2 Corinthians 4:9).
- 📖 Several of Paul’s companions, including Demas, “*deserted*” him (2 Timothy 4:10, 16).
- 📖 God promised, “I will never leave you nor *forsake* you” (Hebrews 13:5).

The word “forsake” carries with it the idea of “abandon” or “desert.” And that makes perfect sense in the context of being told, abandoning Jesus would be the worst mistake anyone could make. It seems that some Christians in the congregation had *already* made it their manner of life to abandon, turn their back on, and desert the church.

Please don’t follow their example!

The Hebrew writer is telling them to *grow closer together*. He is telling them to *figure out ways to rekindle the desire to love and do good works*. He is telling them to *encourage each other more and more*, so that no one walks away from Christ. He is telling them not to turn their backs on the church and on the church’s togetherness. Are you forsaking? Really?

A preacher who thought he had arrived at the pinnacle of his oratory skills once spoke at a country congregation. It appeared that obviously his reputation had preceded him for they had the largest crowd in recent history.

After worship, he was feeling wonderful about his eloquence with rhetoric, and a little old lady walked by and shook his hand. She sweetly asked, “Has anyone ever told you that you were the best preacher they have ever heard?”

He feigned humility and replied, “No, sister, they have not.” Then she, oh so politely replied, “Then please tell me, where did you get the *notion*?”

(Notion: noun, an impression, feeling, belief, or opinion. A vague idea in which some confidence is placed. An odd, fanciful, or capricious idea—*whimsy*)

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Name the Bible character who had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys and controlled 30 cities. BONUS: Which land were they in?

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: 2nd Sunday of the month...

NMCCH: Zip Lock Bags (all sizes) & Fabric Softener Sheets (**10/19** pick up)

Friday Bible Study: 7PM to 8PM yes, here every Friday... Lord willing!

Singing: at Morton St, Tuesday 7PM (**9/25**) a sweet sound of vocal chords

Ladies Day: Howe, Sat 9AM (**9/29**)

“Are You a Salt Shaker?” Meet at 8:45

Woman2Woman: at Lewisville, Saturday 8AM (**10/6**) “Life is like a Box of Chocolates”

FALL GOSPEL MEETING: Here, Sunday thru Tuesday, (**10/14-16**) “UNITY” please see our WEBSITE or posted flyer for times to attend.