

# Restore the Joy of My Salvation

Michael Woody | Hebrews 10:32–39

*This is a call to once again bear the cross of Christ with joy to the saving of their soul.*

---

## Why This Text?

1. In the prior passage (v. 26-31) the author has stated what will happen to those who leave the New Covenant community - they will fall under the just judgement of God.
2. We talked about the justness of the condemnation, it was at the mouth of three witnesses:
  - a. There is the action of trampling the Son of God underfoot,
  - b. There is the action of counting the blood of the covenant by which he was set apart within the covenant community a common thing
  - c. There is the action of insulting the Spirit of grace
3. Verse 32 represents a transition in the text
4. In Hebrews 10:32 we read

**Hebrews 10:32 NKJV**

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

- a. *Recall* (v. 32): present, passive, imperative that means to cause to remember
- b. *After you were illuminated* (v. 32): aorist, passive, participle that means to shine upon; this is an argument for the sovereignty of God in salvation as they did not bring this on themselves, it was sovereignty of God.

- c. Endured (v. 32): aorist, active, indicative, to bear up or persevere. The aorist tense here is showing the temporal nature of the sufferings.
5. Are you familiar with the testimony of Nabeel Qureshi, author of books like Seeking Allah Finding Jesus and No God but One: Allah or Jesus. Here is his statement after converting to Christianity.
6. This is what the Hebrew believers in this day were going through: as a result, they were under persecution. What was the nature of their temptation? To leave Christ? How was this seen? Hebrews 10:24-25
7. This is a call to perseverance. These believers had already experienced persecution, and they had already experienced loss, the Apostle calls them to a spirit of continuing to regard those as less than Christ.

## What This Text?

### A call to consider past triumphs for Christ (v. 32-34)

1. With similarity as was shown in Hebrews 6:4-8 the warning of 10:26-31 has the same sort of words of encouragement and reassurance for the readers.
2. The words in Hebrews 10:26-31 could have been discouraging if that was the final charge but now he emboldens them that they will emerge victorious from this test of their faith.
3. His means of doing this is to remind them of their severe test of faith that they had already endured; it came in the days after their conversion.
4. The author does not gloss over these events - he calls it a great struggle: this is an athletic metaphor.
5. Those who escaped the persecution publicly identified themselves with those who had experienced this same persecution. Those who were imprisoned at this time required all of their needs to be met by friends and family to provide them with all means for survival. Consider Luke 6:22-23

6. My question to you is how do you view your hardships? Do you view them in light of Romans 5:3? Do you realize the goodness and faithfulness of God towards you?

## A call to confidence in the return of Christ (v. 35-38)

1. I am struck by the words, do not cast away your confidence
  - a. Cast away is to give up, or to throw it away (aorist, active, subjunctive)
  - b. Bruce renders this as “you showed your courage in those days; do not abandon it now.”
2. This word for confidence was also used in Hebrews 4:16; 10:19 speaking of “boldness.” The understanding here is a bit different.
3. It is here speaking of a courageous confession which Christians should maintain without fail.
  - a. It makes reference to steadfastness in adverse and disheartening circumstances.
  - b. One of my favorite verses is Acts 4:13, the same sense is used here.
4. Just like we endure difficulty in athletic events or struggle to lift or pick up something we are to have that same endurance in our Christian walk.
5. The author introduces a thought here that he will explore in Hebrews 11: God will fulfil His promise; they will enter into the utmost enjoyment of it; but in the meantime they must endure.
  - a. How is this done? How do we endure? Is it hook up your bootstraps and hang on? NO!
  - b. Hebrews 10:38 tells us
  - c. Then he picks this up in Hebrews 11:1
  - d. In chapter 11 you read again and again, by faith, by faith, by faith.
  - e. It culminates in Hebrews 11:13-16

6. He quotes from Habakkuk 2:3-4
  - a. The prophet Habakkuk wrote these words in the later part of the seventh century B.C., where he cries out to God because of the oppression which was everywhere, and he openly wonders when divine righteousness would at last be vindicated on earth.
  - b. God answered his complaint and told him be patient: the oppressor would at last reap the judgment which his heaven-defying ways had incurred and God's purpose would be accomplished; meanwhile, the righteous man would preserve his life by his loyal trust in God
7. The waiting here is for a Person, a Deliverer and the author takes site on the action of drawing back.

## A call to faithful perseverance to the saving of our soul (v. 39)

1. The Apostle now ends this monumental section with a statement of confidence in God and a statement of confidence in the work that God started
  - a. The confidence in God is the result of the saving of the soul
  - b. The confidence in his readers is that collective "we" are not those who draw back to our damnation, but we believe (not a verb in this instance, it is a noun) speaking of the quality of the person who is of faith.
2. I love FF Bruce's rendering, we are not in the ranks of those who draw back and perish; we belong to those who believe and thus gain our lives.
3. He starts by calling them back to their triumphs early in their Christian walk and now he reminds them why they are still trusting Christ.
4. The focus of this perseverance is not in self but it is persevere by faith.
5. Paul speaks of this same promise in 1 Timothy 6:19:

# How Should This Change My Life?

1. In Psalm 51 David is confessing his sin before God. How could he have fallen so far that he committed murder and adultery? This is the David whom God had chosen and He had sinned against God. In Psalm 51:12 he utters those words,
2. I like the words of the NKJV, he speaks of God's generous Spirit. It was David's covetousness that had put him in Psalm 51 and how he remembers that God is generous; He has withheld nothing that is for our benefit (including trials).
3. David knows what he needs - he needs to be called back to his roots when God first revealed to him His gracious Person. Today God is calling you to
  - a. Consider your past triumphs for Christ - go back to your conversion and your confidence and love for God.
  - b. He calls you to endure because of your confidence in the return of Christ - it will not be forever.
  - c. And He incites you to faithful perseverance to the saving of our soul
4. Why? Because if you draw back, and you leave him, God has no pleasure in you and that does speak to your eternal destiny.
5. It is not about a prayer - it is about a faith that endures.