

IN 2012, LET US...
(Hebrews 10:22-25)

I. Let us be convicted (vs. 22).

- A. At times, our faith can waver and we can have doubts.
 - 1. This is what happened to Peter on the water.
 - 2. He was looking at Jesus but began to doubt when he looked away.
- B. When life hits us between the eyes, it can cause us to have doubts in our faith.
 - 1. We can begin to waver.
 - 2. When that happens, we can either draw closer to God or begin to sink.
- C. The inspired writer urges us to draw closer to God.
 - 1. The only way to draw closer to God is get more into a study of His word.
 - 2. This is where we learn about God and from where our faith comes.
 - 3. We are going to be tested (James 1:2-3).
 - 4. When the tests come, if faith is strong, then we will be those that draw near to God.
- D. The only way this will take place is if we have a true heart.
 - 1. This indicates one whose heart is genuinely turned to God.
 - 2. There are those that come to God because it is convenient, but when it is not, they turn from Him.
 - a. This is the type of person characterized in the parable of the sower as stony ground or thorny ground.
 - b. It's good for a while until something better comes along and then faith is lost.
 - 3. A true heart is one that genuinely loves God and does not want to leave Him.
- E. This person is fully convicted that God will keep him in times of trouble as well as the good times.
- F. Athanasius, early bishop of Alexandria, stoutly opposed the teachings of Arius, who declared that Christ was not the eternal Son of God, but a subordinate being. Hounded through five exiles, he was finally summoned before emperor Theodosius, who demanded he cease his opposition to Arius. The emperor reproved him and asked, "Do you not realize that all the world is against you?" Athanasius quickly answered, "Then I am against all the world."
 - 1. This is the type conviction we must have.
 - 2. The conviction to be faithful unto death.

II. Let us hold fast our confession (vs. 23).

- A. Before our conversion, we made a confession.
 - 1. We confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - 2. This confession was necessary to be saved (Romans 10:9-10).
 - 3. We also confessed with our lives, by being buried in water and being faithful, that Jesus is the Son of God (Matthew 10:32-33).

- B. This confession is to be lived out in our daily lives.
 1. Wherever we go we are to show the world by the way we live that Jesus is in control of our lives.
 2. We do this so the world can see our good works in order to glorify God.
- C. When we allow ourselves to lose conviction, we fail to hold fast our confession.
 1. When we begin to doubt and waver, we begin to live a life that shows a lack of faith in God.
 2. When we do that, we fail to confess Christ as Lord of our lives.
- D. In the darkest hours, our confession of faith in God and Jesus should uplift us instead of fail us.
 1. It is something that will sustain us if we hold to it.
 2. The truth is people and things turn against us.
 3. Paul wrote to Timothy and said that all men had forsaken him.
 4. He went on to say that only the Lord had stood by him.
 5. Jesus stands with us when we continue to keep our confession of faith in Him.
- E. Too many Christians make a confession of faith and then at some critical moment waver in that confession.
 1. Our writer encourages us to hold that confession fast without wavering.
 2. There is no room in the life of a Christian for wavering.
 3. As the old saying goes, if you give Satan an inch, he will become your ruler.
- F. The writer gives encouragement to not waver by reminding us that God is faithful to His promises.
 1. God has never wavered in the fulfilling of His word.
 2. We can't find one example of God going back on a promise that He made to His people.
 3. God does not waver in His blessings, and we should not waver in our confession of faith in Him or His Son.

III. **Let us consider one another (vs. 24-25).**

- A. The best way to show our conviction and keep to our confession is to consider one another.
 1. The word carries the idea of thinking about something, in this case, other Christians with whom we worship.
 2. It helps us to keep what we have when we consider the influence we have on one another.
 3. You help me be faithful and I help you be faithful, and we all help each other to be faithful.
- B. We help each other strive to be better Christians.
 1. We encourage love between brethren.
 2. We encourage good deeds to be done.
- C. It helps me be faithful when others are faithful.
 1. It also helps me be faithful when I consider that others are looking

- to me for influencing for good.
 - 2. We have influence over others and when thought about, it is a motivating factor to remain faithful.
- D. The best way to encourage each other is to assemble with one another.
 - 1. We can only exhort one another when we are together.
 - 2. Failure to assemble gives no opportunity for encouragement and exhortation.
- E. I hope that we make 2012 the best year ever individually for attendance to worship.
 - 1. We need to bring an attitude of involvement to our worship services.
 - 2. We all know it is encouraging to see more people in worship than less people.
 - 3. We also know that we get uplifted and feel better about our walk with God when attending and actively participating in worship services.
- F. We influence each other by our attendance.
- G. The same is true with Bible class on Sunday morning and midweek services on Wednesday night.
 - 1. It is a shame that more people don't attend Bible classes that can.
 - 2. We need to be careful not to make excuses for missing Bible classes when we could truly be here.