



Sunday 4th April 2021

⁹ Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case – the things that have to do with salvation. ¹⁰ God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ¹¹ We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Hebrews 6

Yesterday we said how we cannot put our trust in the spiritual privileges we might have had, what we need to do is to put our trust in Christ and that we have a real relationship with God only if we recognise that we are saved through faith in Christ alone. This is what the Easter season is all about, a reminder to recognise that a Christian upbringing, being baptised, being in a church family (good and useful as these things are) are not the reason anyone is saved and in relationship with God. We see here -

- **The readers are rescued and saved** (v9) – The writer has expressed concern about the maturity of these believers but now he does not expect the readers of his letter to be amongst those who fall away. After what they had read that must have been such an encouragement to them that even in their immaturity they were in a good place in terms of their salvation. The great news is that he gives them and us –
- **Three areas of fruitfulness that show we are in relationship with God** (v10) – This is so helpful because it helps us not to fear that we are one of those who look like a Christian but are not. These three are the evidence of true faith that these, and all Christian people show -
 - **Their work** – in response to God’s work of salvation they have worked in God’s service, doing kingdom work. The wonderful thing is he does not list what they have done giving equal value and status to any work done for the Lord.
 - **Their love for God** – again as a response to God’s work of salvation these people have demonstrated that they love God and they have done this by
 - **Helping God’s people** – Help here is both practical and spiritual and is ongoing. We may, at times, wish we work more for God’s glory, love God better and help His people more but the point here is not how much we do these things but that doing these things show we have a fruitful and living relationship with God. There is, however, one more litmus test that the writer wants them to recognise, and it is
- **The need for perseverance** (v11-12) – The writer wants all of us to realise that the most vital need for any of us as Christians is to persevere to the end with commitment (v11), hard work (v12), faith and patience (v12). If we imitate those who have shown these qualities both those we read about in the Bible and those we are privileged to know or to have known then we can be assured that we will receive all that God has promised us and us that we have hoped for.,

Question

How can these verses encourage and challenge us to keep on going as a Christian?

Prayer

Lord, thank You that You, by Your Spirit reassure us and help us to persevere in faith. Amen