

May 2007

Forward Momentum

“For ye have need of patience,” Hebrews 10:36

A. Confidence Rewarded. Hebrews 10:35

1. *“Cast not away therefore your confidence,”* - μη αποβαλητε ουν την παρρησιαν υμων

The particle *oun* is used to denote a doctrinal conclusion and to tie in what he's been talking about with what he's about to say. He's been talking about how they had been through so much pressure, testing and persecution at the hands of the countrymen for the sake of Christ and they had survived it all.

The loss of jobs, health, property and finances, social ostracism, the rejection by family and friends, even outright persecution and they survived it all! They went through all that and stayed on course with grace, faith and the Word of God. They stayed true to Christ and to his Word, so he says don't throw all that away; they will be rewarded.

He knows that many in their midst had gone away from the Word being taught in the local church and back into religion, that is, back into the temple, but they didn't! So he's encouraging them to hang on, to stay with Bible Doctrine and living by faith.

Me plus the subjunctive mood is what is called a prohibitive subjunctive. It was used to prohibit the beginning of an act. They weren't doing it, that's good, but he doesn't want them to do it, so he would say, “Don't ever throw your confidence away.”

To *throw away, apoballo*, suggests the idea of recklessly rejecting, or throwing away something that is valuable. It has the idea that something is valuable, but the person doesn't know how valuable it is, so they just throw it away. How many people have thrown things away that were valuable, pictures, vases, antiques, but they didn't know it.

Confidence, parrhesia, speaks of having the full assurance of something. It's the mental attitude of **boldness**. There is no fear, no doubting, no hesitancy, no fear of rejection or suppression. **It's the mental attitude of someone who knows they have the right to do something, so they do it!** It's the mental attitude of faith that has been brought to its highest level of completion or perfection.

He started talking about their faith confidence in verse 19 and how it had taken through all their trials and sufferings in life, and now he's telling them that it will be rewarded by God. And how does the believer get this mental attitude of confidence? By living in the filling of the Holy Spirit and combining their faith with the teaching of the Word of God. **It is as we stick with Bible Doctrine, live by faith and grow in the Word that our faith continues to grow unto the place of absolute confidence.**

2. “Which hath great recompence of reward.” - ητις εχει μισθαποδοσιαν μεγαλην

When the writer is talking about confidence or boldness, he's talking about faith. Not about their faith in Christ on the day they got saved, but about their post salvation faith that they exercised in their day to day living. Now he says that it will be richly rewarded.

Faith is the issue here. It is through faith, faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, that we entered into this life of grace. It is through faith that we appropriate all the grace blessings that God has for us in the Christian life. **And it is by faith that we will acquire the rewards that God still has for us in this life!**

Hebrews 11:6 states, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must believe** that he is, and that he is a **rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.*” God **becomes** a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. The verb *ginomai* signifies a change of condition. And what is that thing on our part that causes God to become a rewarder to us? Our faith in his Word!

So many believers are trying to impress God with their morality, their human good works, or something that they do, or something about themselves, **but God is not impressed with anything about us!** In fact everything about our human natures is offensive to this holy and righteous God.

There is only one thing that does not offend his righteousness; there is only one thing that works in accordance with his grace and that is faith in his Word! And the sooner believers in Christ see this and live by this, the better off they will be!

Reward, misthapodosian, was the payment of wages that the worker had coming to him. It then came to be known as what was coming to someone. The word was used for both rewards and punishment. If a man did what was right, he was rewarded. But if he did what was wrong, then he was punished.

If a man was hired to do a job for so much money, and he finished his work, then he had his wages due him. And the same thing goes for Christians. If we do what we're supposed to do as outlined in the Word, then we can expect God to reward us and his rewards are for time and eternity!

And what are we supposed to do? Live by faith! We're to keep claiming the promises; keep moving forward in God's plan for our lives; keep seeking the Holy Spirit's leading; keep growing in the Word, which presupposes that you are under the doctrinal ministry of some Pastor-Teacher, and going on to maturity.

And it's not that our faith confidence will be rewarded; it will be **greatly rewarded!** The verb *echo* tells us that indigenous to faith is reward. In other words, blessings and reward come with faith. Sometimes believers will be hammered by the pressures of life, but one thing that should greatly encourage us is that God has rewards in mind for us for enduring them and persevering on.

B. The Need For Endurance. Hebrews 10:36

1. “For ye have need” - γαρ εχετε χρεια

The present active indicative of *echo* is used to denote that one possesses something. Here it's saying that they have a need for something. They need to have something that they are presently lacking so that they can go on to maturity in the Christian life and inherit the blessings that God has in store for them down the road.

The word for *need* is *chreian* and it refers to something that is necessary for a purpose. We need food to survive, but we also need nutritional food to be healthy. Children can survive without their emotional needs being met by their parents, but they need them if they're to be emotionally healthy. **Christians need the accurate teachings of God's Word for their spiritual health, growth and sometimes even just to survive.**

The issue here is not for survival for these believers, they are already doing that in the face of great pressure, but for going on into the mature Christian life and/or a new phase in their lives marked by tremendous blessing and prosperity.

God had promised these things to them, (and to us as well), and they were on their way to receiving them, but there was some thing, some quality in their souls that they were lacking, something that they needed so they could reach the goal intended for them.

2. “Of patience” - υπομονης

And here's the quality of soul that they were lacking – endurance! If they were going to keep moving forward in the plan of God and the grace of God, so that they could keep reaping the blessings of prosperity that God has sowed, then **they needed endurance**.

Endurance is that quality of abiding under the trial, the hardship, or pressure situation, utilizing the various grace provisions that God supplies. Instead of running away from the situation, rebelling against it, or resenting it, what God wants us to do is live by faith, trust him, lean upon his grace and power, to pray, to stay in the Word, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and confess our sins to him if we have sinned. **He doesn't want us to let the pressure of the situation turn us aside, but come through to the other side victorious into the blessings he has for us; and we need endurance to do that.**

They had seen many of their fellow believers leave the teaching of Bible Doctrine in the local church and go back into the temple system, others went back into the world system, and still others into the gnostic heresy. They too had felt the tremendous pressure against them from all sides to go away from the concepts of grace, faith and truth.

So he's telling them that **endurance will carry them through** what they're going through in their lives to the other side of blessings and maturity. All they have to do is keep leaning on the Lord's grace provisions and keep making the positive decisions to move ahead by faith in the Lord's plan, power and provision.

Now when he says that it's something that they need, he isn't saying that it's something desirable, but that it's absolutely **necessary**, if they want to receive what he has promised. **Crucial in this matter is walking by faith and the consistent, disciplined intake of the Word of God being taught in a local church and the application of it to one's life.** We all slip and fall at times in this, but **the key is to keep with it and to keep moving forward by faith.** Doctrine will be our first priority.

Crucial also to this is **the making of many right decisions to keep moving forward in the Word of God and the plan of God.** That means when it comes time to take in the Word of God in class, and one has the option of doing something else, (there are exceptions like the “ox in the ditch”), then one chooses to go to class.

It also means that **if there are people or things that hinder or hold you back**, people who are a distraction or are detrimental to you moving forward in the plan of God and grace of God, then **you have to make a positive decision to let them go by the wayside!** These people may be our family or friends, but if they don't want to move forward with you, then that's their choice. **We** have to keep moving forward.

It also means that one has to make a decision, not merely a desire or wish, but **a decision to serve God and do his will in your life.** Then you have to have the follow through of a daily commitment toward that end. There will be those who hinder or try to prevent this in your life, even fellow Christians, **but one has to separate themselves from them.** *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”* 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Included in the concept of endurance is the **recognizing that others will peel off in time** for their own reasons. **That's their decision – not yours!** You have decided to go on in your life with the Lord and his Word, **and part of what we have to endure over the years is the loss of friends and family.**

But **endurance** is not a matter of “gritting one's teeth”, or “gutting it out”. These are concepts connected to the flesh nature and you will find in short order that they are totally ineffective in the angelic conflict. Our warfare is on a spiritual plane and only spiritual concepts, not physical, will give us the victory.

What you will soon recognize is that testing and suffering are a part of the angelic conflict, as well as attacks by the devil, who will do everything in his power to stop you. But God has provided us his armor, so that we can stand against the devil and prevail, a new nature to offset our flesh natures, the filling of the Holy Spirit, Bible Doctrine and faith to renew the mind, prayer and the support and encouragement from other believers.

The Biblical concept of **endurance** is abiding under the trial utilizing all the spiritual provisions that he has supplied to all believers; knowing that one is going to come out of it victorious at the other end is our **hope.** **Perseverance** is doing all that and keeping one's forward momentum. We have to keep moving forward.

3. “After ye have done the will of God,” - ινα το θελημα του θεου ποιησαντες

Hina plus the subjunctive mood is used to denote a purpose clause, that there is a goal in mind, a purpose behind something. The goal is to receive the purpose of God, that is what we're aiming at. But to receive the promise of God, or what God has promised, we first must do the will of God. And to do that, we must have **endurance**.

The word *done* here is the aoist active participle of poieo, and the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb, which in this passage is *receiving*, receiving what was promised. So, **the action of doing the will of God must come first, before we can receive what was promised.**

The active voice is used here to show that the believer must do the action of the verb out of his own free will; **no one can do it for him, and no one can make him do it.** We alone must be willing to do it and we must make the conscious choice to do it, and not just once or twice, but thousands of times.

Now this passage is not talking about salvation, but about the special grace package of blessings, (we don't merit them, we can't earn them and we don't deserve them), that God has for everyone of his children on earth. He planned them out and determined them back in eternity past, and established them in his eternal purpose as being just the right thing for each believer in Christ. **Only a perfect God could come up with a perfect package of blessing designed for each individual believer.**

But! He has also established a perfect will on how we are to appropriate this package of blessing that must be followed! The believer is not left to the discretion of utilizing his own works, human talents, ideas, abilities, strengths, efforts, or plans on what he's to do and how he's to do it.

God's plan for blessing us is his from start to finish. From the planning of it to our appropriating it in this life and in eternity. And we must follow his plan by doing his will, if we want to make it a reality in our lives.

Due to the nature of God's righteousness and his justice, and due to the fact that he has decided to bless us based solely on his grace, then we must do exactly what he specifies in his will. This eliminates the believer from coming up with his own ideas on the matter, formulating a plan to bring it about, and then utilizing his/her own strengths and resources to make it happen.

His rigidly established protocol of grace prohibits our works, so that it can be all of grace! If something is done our way, then it's our works! **But if it's going to be according to God's grace, then it must be done God's way!** “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*” Romans 11:6 **If it's not all of grace, then it's not of grace at all.** But churches and Christians have strayed away from this concept today with their programs, meetings and self righteous human good.

The will of God plays a very important part in all this, because unless the believer does the will of God and follows his plan, then he will not be able to appropriate what God has promised. **His rigidly established protocol of grace prohibits our works.**

Verse seven in this chapter ends with a statement that Christ had made, “*I have come to do your will, O God.*” It uses the vocative of address, which would be “*O God*”, but in today's English we merely say their name, I have come to do your will, God.

In eternity past the Father had planned a plan of tremendous blessing for his Son. He wanted to do it for him; he determined to do so; he decreed it and planned it. We only know some of the things that the Father wanted to give his Son, promised to give his Son and determined a plan whereby they would become a reality. This blessing was composed of such things as: a kingdom, a people, an inheritance, a priesthood, etc..

One of the concepts found in this that we do know is that the people that he was going to give to his Son would have the distinct, very serious problem of sin that would put them under the wrath of God and something would have to be done about that. We would have to be removed from the curse of God's wrath so we could be under his blessing.

So in this plan of God, Christ would have to die for their sakes; he would have to bear the penalty of their sins! The will of God and the plan of God called for Christ to bear the penalty for all their sins. **And Christ would have to carry out the will of God in everyone of its aspects first, before he could receive what was promised him!**

And it's this same idea with us. God has many blessings in store for us in this life, but to receive them, we have to do his will! And because there are many blessings he has chosen to give us throughout our lives, we have to do his will first, then receive the blessing.

For example, let's say that a believer in Christ wants God to forgive his sins. Now even though many believers and their churches resort to a variety of things to try to get God to forgive them, **he has already established a procedure that he rigidly follows whereby we can receive his forgiveness and cleansing**, and that is to acknowledge our sins to him. “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” 1 John 1:9

Yet believers all over the world are utilizing man made tactics and ideas to be forgiven. They'll confess their sins to a priest, but not God; they'll do the rosary, weep crocodile tears; try to feel really sorry for what they've done; stand up in some church service; go to the mourner's bench up front; promise never to do it again; try to turn over a new leaf; beat themselves up with self flagellation, etc., ad nauseum.

The righteousness and will of God have determined that **God is going to bless man based upon his grace and not upon our ideas, our strength, our striving and trying, our self righteousness, our human good and anything else we can do.** That's why if we want to receive the blessings of God in our lives, then we are going to have to follow his rigidly established protocol of grace that is revealed in Bible Doctrine!

4. “*Ye might receive the promise.*” - κομισθησθε την επαγγελιαν

Komizo, to *receive*, meant to receive one's pay or wages, to receive what is coming to you, to obtain the actual fulfillment of something. It also has the idea of **legality** with it, which is to say, that **one is legally entitled to something**.

So when we tie all these concepts together and use as an example the case of a worker who has been promised \$200 labor for installing a fence, if he installs the fence, then he is legally entitled to the \$200. The concept that *komizo* brings in is that there is a promise concerning something based upon a fulfillment of an action; once the action is completed, then there is the actual receiving of what was promised.

Now concerning what God has promised us, he doesn't specify what they all are, but we know that they are many types of blessings. So we just refer to them as our ***blessing package***; blessings designed specifically for each one of us. We do know that faith, confidence, endurance, perseverance and a great reward are all involved in it.

God has promised us something, which now becomes his plan for our lives, and the goal in life for every believer to be moving in faith toward. In this we will have to do his will to receive it. It also brings in the idea of being a reward, the reward for diligently seeking him. And because it is a blessing proceeding out of his grace, it will have to be appropriated by faith!

So we will not only have to live by faith each day of our lives, that is faith in his Word, his promises and his doctrines, but we will have to **keep moving forward by faith!** And, because of the hardships that will be involved along the way, which we will have to endure, then we will also need the concept of **endurance!** So, after enduring the hardships, and after doing his will, then we will receive what he has promised.

One needs to look back at the nation of Israel when God took them out of Egypt to bring them into the promise of a land of blessing. In this new land they would receive land, livestock, orchards and many other blessings that they had not labored over. Not to mention, that they already had great wealth that the Egyptians had given them!

But, as they journeyed there they would be faced with hardships, the long journey, the sand, the hot sun, food and water for themselves and their livestock, deprivation, etc.. But also along the way would be times of refreshing at various oases. So what were they to do? Endure the times of hardships on the way to the next period of refreshing knowing that they were going to go into the land promised to them!

In the context we have an example of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the *Righteous One* spoken of in the passage. Christ was sent here to accomplish the plan of salvation, to gather out a people that the Father gave to him, etc.. All this with its many facets was the Father's plan for his life. But to do it **he had to live by faith!** And he lived by faith in the Word; he trusted the Father's promises; he endured the hardships and sufferings; and **after he did the Father's will, he received what the Father had promised him!**

So when we look at our own lives today we need to realize that God did not just save us to spare us from Hell, which is an amazing and wonderful thing, but he saved us to bless us! “*Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*” 1 Peter 3:9

In eternity past God determined to bless each one of his children. Now some of those blessings we all have in common, such as, the new nature, the resurrection body, eternity future with God, the indwelling Holy Spirit, etc.. But beyond that he wants to give each one of us things that are especially designed for us. These make up our own individual package of temporal blessings.

These blessings are to begin at the moment of our salvation and continue on until we die; they will be given to us at different points in our lives; and they will be given to us for our own personal enjoyment and use. And because they are God's grace gifts to us over the period of our lifetime here on earth, they now become **faith objectives!**

We don't know what they will be, but we do know that they will be great because they come to us from God. They may be something that we do know about because we have prayed for them, as with Abraham, but either way they will be fantastic. And because they will be distributed to us over the course of time, **we will always be having something to look forward toward!**

And not only will we have something good to look forward to, we now have a reason for living, a reason to exercise our faith, a reason to follow God's protocol plan and will for our lives, a reason to keep moving forward in life by faith and a reason to keep enduring the hardships that we will inevitably face in life!

And not only that we now have an **hope**. Not just the hope of eternity future, but the hope, the confident mental attitude, that **good things are awaiting us in the future** because God is going to cause all things to work out for our good! “*I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.*” Psalm 27:13

We have to understand something about this matter of God's grace versus our works. Whatever comes out of our works is due us as a wage. It is ours; we have a right to it; we earned it and we deserve it. **But if we want God to do something for us**, then it will be all from him apart from our works! **And if it's all from him, it will be all of his grace and appropriated by us through faith!**

And sometimes in this process of acquiring God's blessings of grace the believer will get down in their faith and try to resort to their works to “help God along”, as Abraham did with Eliezer and Ishmael. Abraham wanted a son, but it was in such a long time coming that he thought he could use Eliezer, or go through Hagar, in his works to solve the problem. But God quickly corrected that notion by telling him that the son promised to him would come through Sarah and out of his own loins. In the meantime Abraham was to occupy himself with Jesus Christ as he waited for the fulfillment of the promise.

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