

One In Christ, Inc **NEWSLETTER**

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<http://www.stevepetitmesssages.com>

Consider Jesus: Our New and Living Way (Part 2) Hebrews 10:5-39

To read and interpret Hebrews 10:26-39 out of its content is to make it into a terribly problematic passage! Options and various conclusions include: 1) This is about people who were never truly saved in the first place - "professors" but never "possessors" of Christ 2) This is about the truly saved, but their willful, chronic sinning has caused them to lose their salvation (which they can possibly get back) 3) This describes saved people who, under pressure, commit apostasy - an intentional, deliberate disavowal of Christ - and, therefore, become irredeemable.

I believe the context (and the contents) suggest another option. What if this passage is not about "salvation" at all, but rather about pressing on into confidence and maturity in Christ alone? Look at 10:35, "...do not throw away your confidence..." This passage is a warning not to go backwards, but to keep pressing on into Christ. The Bible does not clearly teach, "Once saved always saved." The Bible does not clearly teach that salvation can be "lost." The Bible clearly teaches that genuine believers who keep pressing on through confidence in Christ alone will never fall away.

To think our safety, our confidence, our maturity can be found in Christ "plus" anything... IS TO GO BACKWARDS! We can expect the judgment of God to fall upon anything and everything apart from Christ. To think we can add any cleansing agent, any spiritual steroid, any power additive to the atoning work of God in Christ is akin to grinding Christ into the dirt. To act as though we need more than the gift of grace is like spitting upon God's Spirit. (See 10:29)

This passage is a warning to those wavering between Christ "plus" (in this case, Temple practices and sacrificial rituals) and Christ "alone." To add anything to Christ is to "sin willfully against the knowledge of the truth" - the truth of Who Christ is and what He has done. To add anything to Christ, the Truth, is a lie and will cause us to forfeit our full and perfect confidence in a full and perfect Savior. And, the results will not be pleasant! (See 10:30-31)

In 10:32-39, the author encourages his believing readers to remember who "we" are - "we are not of those who shrink back..." We have a "better possession" than anything the world (even the religious world) can give us - a "lasting", abiding, remaining possession (even when all else fails). His name is Jesus Christ. He is our "great reward" (10:35) We are His "righteous ones" who live "by faith" in Him alone (10:38). Set your focus on Him. Remember your confidence - let the sails of your life be fully open to the winds of Christ. Abide in Him for all you need. Abandon to Him and discover that He, alone, is enough!

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Greetings

We have recently completed 30 years of ministering the truth of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" from our "base camp here in Florida. We've covered many of the zip codes in the United States, with various ethnic groups, of many denominational stripes, in greatly different venues. No matter the setting or the people, the message remains the same: the only hope we have of experiencing and expressing the glory of God is in and through and by and of Christ alone!

I don't profess to know what 2019 holds for OIC or for any of you - our family in Christ. I am confident, though, in God's desire and ability to make Himself and His truth known through willing agents. Our home church (CCF) and its ministry to college students remains active and effectual as we seek to "infect" a new generation with the Truth of the Gospel. Our conference ministry continues - we have only 3 or 4 open dates left in 2019 (if you are interested, contact us soon!). Our investment in pastors - locally and throughout the country - is ongoing and valuable.

We never, for even a minute, think we are in this alone. We do believe "God will supply all our needs according to His riches..." (Phil 4:19). We equally believe for the past 30 years you have been some of those "riches"! The richness of your prayers, your encouragement, your open hearts and open homes, your financial support... have all made this journey possible. Thank you for travelling this highway of holiness together with us. Hope to see each of you in 2019!

P.S. Note the deadline of January 14 for guaranteed rooms and meals for our Florida retreat!



CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	
6,13,20,27	CCF
8	Alachua Study
29	Ocala Study
<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
8-10	FLORIDA RETREAT (*see info below)
22-24	San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)
<u>MARCH</u>	
3-6	Anderson, SC (864-226-1789)
<u>MAY</u>	
3-5	Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)



2019 Florida Retreat



“Not I, But Christ”

February 8 - 10, 2019 - Gainesville, Florida

\$50 deposit (per person) due by January 14, 2019

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)

(for further details call 386-418-0913(h), 352-672-1275(c)
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