

Daily Devotional, November 11, 2021 The Assurance we Find in Christ

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrew 9:27-28 (NIV)

I once had a seminary professor who walked into my New Testament class and announced, "We save the book of Hebrews for November, when you are weary and anxious for the Second Coming." Indeed, the Hebrew Christians of the New Testament were tired. Rejected by their own people, even their own families, they suffered for their faith in Christ, and they anticipated that Jesus would come back in their time, relieving them of the shameful trials they endured. They were ready to give up. Does this sound familiar?

Here we are again, in a November that finds us weary and anxious: tired of the inconveniences, tired of the losses, tired of our own reluctant obedience—just plain tired! We try to look ahead to the beginning of the holiday season, but our confidence is shaky. This is not quite, what we had in mind. How do we keep going, not just for ourselves but for those whom we love? How do we find the capacity to reinvent continually our old, comfortable routines? How do we comfortably and safely anticipate enjoying this time together with family and friends again?

The author of Hebrews gives us two answers. We can only keep going through:

1. The assurance that Christ died for our sins ONCE, and He never has to do it again.

Hebrews 2:9 *"...He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."*

Hebrew 9:12 *"...He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."*

Hebrews 10:14 *"For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*

2. The encouragement of each other.

Hebrews 12:14 *"Pursue peace with everyone..."*

Hebrews 13:1 *"Let mutual love continue..."*

Hebrews 13:15 *"Let us continually offer praise..."*

Jesus defeated death! The greatest encouragement we have is that separation from God is done! We are His beloved. We need the encouragement of spending time together, to be in community and to support and enjoy one another. Go out today in confidence and joy and be His people!

Prayer: Lord, don't let my discouragement rule me today. Help me seek Your presence and cling to Your sacrifice for my sin. Lead me into the world to offer peace and grace to others, and to share in the joy and comfort of family and community. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.