

How to Recognize a Faithful Christian

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews 10:19-31
- B. The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish converts.
 - 1. They had been saved from Egyptian bondage to a law they could not keep, but the rituals of the law were all they knew.
 - 2. Because of this some of these converts appear to be tempted to turn back. The Hebrew writer must prove the Jesus is the superior high priest of a superior covenant validated by a superior sacrifice.
- C. In spite of this superiority, people respond to it in two ways:
 - 1. Heb. 10:19-25 - Some are saved and remain faithful.
 - 2. Heb. 10:26-31 - Some obey the Gospel and later abandon the faith.

I. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS DRAW NEAR

- A. Heb. 10:19-20 - He has boldness, confidence in his salvation.
 - 1. Impossible under the Law of Moses, but made possible by Jesus Christ.
 - a. Isa. 1:18
 - 2. He tells the Jewish converts something they never could have done under the Law of Moses: to enter the Holy of Holies.
 - 3. Impossible for any but the high priest, and only with two sacrifices.
 - 4. Jesus made it possible - Matt. 27:50-51; John 10:9; Heb. 9:22
- B. What else identifies a faithful Christian?
 - 1. v. 21 - He has close fellowship with his High Priest.
 - a. Heb. 4:14-16, 7:25; John 6:37
 - 2. v. 22 - He has a clean heart and a new life.
 - a. The Jewish worshiper was never truly clean. Even the High Priest had to cleanse himself every time he entered the tabernacle and temple.
 - b. When a sinner comes to Jesus by faith, he is fully cleansed by the blood of Jesus; one sacrifice for all time.
 - 1) 1John 1:7; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:28
 - 3. He comes in full assurance of faith - Rom. 5:1-2, 10:17

II. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS HOLD FAST

- A. Heb. 10:23, 35-39
 - 1. For those who draw back - Gen. 19:26; 1John 2:19
- B. What keeps the faithful, faithful? - John 10:10, 14:1-3; Heb. 13:5

III. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS LOOK AFTER ONE ANOTHER

- A. Heb. 10:24-25 - We help one another along the way in life.
 - 1. "Consider" - katanoëo: "to observe fully; behold, consider, discover, perceive; to set the mind on" (Strongs).
 - 2. "Provoke" - paroxusmos: "incitement to good, provoke unto; to stir up" (Strongs).

3. "Exhort" - parakaleo: "to call near, invite, invoke by imploration or consolation; beseech, call for, be of good comfort, give exhortation, entreat, pray, to encourage" (Strong's).

B. How faithful Christians do this:

1. We love each other
 - a. John 13:34-35; Matt. 22:37-40; 1John 3:14, 4:7-8, 4:20-21
2. We work together - Rom. 14:19
3. We worship together
 - a. Nothing will help you stay close to the Lord any more than regular, faithful attendance to the services at the House of God.
 - b. Three reasons to come to services faithfully:
 - 1) God commands it - Heb. 10:25
 - 2) Jesus did it - Luke 4:16
 - 3) New Testament Christians practiced it - Acts 20:6-7
4. We wait together.
 - a. As time passes, it becomes harder to resist temptation.
 - b. We need the support we get from each other all the more.
 - c. 2Peter 3:9-14; 1Cor. 11:23-26