

“LET US” (PART 1)

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The phrase “let us” is used 13 times in the book of Hebrews alone in the context of encouraging some kind of good to be done. By comparison, the same phrase is used in this manner only 25 other times in the entire New Testament (7 times in Romans; 4 times in Galatians; 3 times in 1 Corinthians, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians; twice in 1 John; and once in 2 Corinthians, 1 Timothy and Revelation). *Let us* review and consider the 13 occurrences of this phrase in Hebrews, and what they are teaching us together, as fellow Christians, to do.

- 1) “*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it*” (Heb 4:1). Hebrews 3:7-11 urges Christians not to harden their hearts like the generation of Israelites that left Egypt under Moses and then tempted God in the wilderness with their unbelief. If we are like them, we too will fall short of eternal life. Therefore, Hebrews 3:12-13 commands us: “*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*” We need to have fear of falling short, and exhort each other every day so that none of us do.
- 2) “*Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief*” (Heb 4:11). The Holy Spirit swore in his wrath that those unbelieving Israelites would not enter into his rest (Psa 95:7-11). This “rest” is referring to eternal life. Hebrews 4:8-10 says, “*For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*” To overcome the temptation to depart from the living God by unbelief, and to attain that rest that remains for God’s people in eternity will require great effort and *labor* on our part.
- 3) “*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession*” (Heb 4:14). We will remain in Christ’s family “*if we hold fast the*

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(continued)

confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” (Heb 3:6). “For we are made partakers of Christ, *if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end*” (Heb 3:14). *Becoming a Christian, and beginning our Christian race is essential in order for us to be saved in the end, but that will not happen unless we hold fast to the end* (see also Rev 2:25-29).

4) “*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*” (Heb 4:16). Satan is our adversary, who like a roaring lion is walking about seeking to devour us (1 Pet 5:8). As we are laboring to hold fast our profession so that we may enter into that rest, we need to pray for God’s help. Prayer is included with the “whole armor of God” that will enable us to stand against the wiles of the devil and to quench all of his fiery darts (Eph 6:10-18).

5) “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, *let us go on unto perfection*; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God” (Heb 6:1). When we become a Christian, we have been *born again* (John 3:3-5; 1 Pet 1:23). At that point, being spiritual newborns, we are “babes in Christ.” But it is not God’s will for us to remain spiritual babies. We need to desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby (1 Pet 2:2). We need to “grow up into him in all things,” to become spiritually *complete*, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13-15). The Hebrews were rebuked for their lack of spiritual growth (Heb 5:11-14). Thus, we all need to grow, going on to spiritual completion (the meaning of the word *perfection*).

6) “*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*” (Heb 10:22). Faith, repentance, and baptism are requirements for us to become a Christian in the first place. But that living faith in God must grow. It needs to be full. For without faith it is *impossible* to please God (Heb 11:6).

Lord willing, we will go over the last seven next week.