

“LET US” (PART 2)

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Last week, we examined the first six of thirteen appearances of the phrase “let us” in the book of Hebrews: “Let us therefore fear” (Heb 4:1); “Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest” (Heb 4:11); “let us hold fast our profession” (Heb 4:14); “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace” (Heb 4:16); “let us go on unto perfection” (Heb 6:1); and, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Heb 10:22). *Let us* now look at the remaining seven passages in Hebrews that use this same phrase.

7) “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)*” (Heb 10:23). We already saw the encouragement to “hold fast” in Hebrews 4:14. As we do so, our faith in God must not waver. “For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (Jas 1:6-8).

8) “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works*” (Heb 10:24). Going back to the warnings in chapters 3 and 4, for us not to have an evil heart of unbelief, departing from God, being hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, we were instructed to exhort one another *daily* (Heb 3:12-13). Hebrews 10:24-31 teaches us that the assemblies of the church are a vital part of our spiritual protection from departing from the Lord. Instead of forsaking the church assemblies, we need to use each one to consider one another and provoke each other to love and good works.

9) “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us*” (Heb 12:1). Like all the examples that we are reminded of in Hebrews chapter 11, in order to please God with our faith, we must lay aside these things. Notice that we must lay aside not only sin, but also “every weight.” Yes, there are things that are not inherently sinful which can weight us down and prevent us from running our Christian race as we should. Having a care for food, drink, and clothes is an example (Matt 6:24-33; Luke 8:14). The love of money is another (1 Tim 6:6-11). Anger is another spiritual weight we are told to put away (Eph 4:26-31; Jas 1:19-20). Of course, there are many other similar things for us all to put away so that we may run our our race with patience.

10) “*And let us run with patience the race that is set before us*” (Heb 12:1).

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(continued)

Going on to perfection (Heb 6:1) is the “race that is set before us” (see also Php 3:11-14). To grow to be complete like Christ, conformed to his image (Rom 8:29; 2 Cor 3:18; Col 3:10), we must *endure* (the meaning of the word *patience*) sufferings for righteousness’ sake and the temptations that those sufferings bring (Jas 1:2-4,12; 1 Pet 1:6-7).

11) “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, *let us have grace*, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb 12:28). We do need God’s favor to be able to serve Him properly. We must *grow* in that grace (2 Pet 3:18). It is “thankworthy” and “acceptable” with God (both of these words are the Greek word *charis*, the New Testament word for *grace*) for us to “endure grief, suffering wrongfully” (1 Pet 2:19-20). These are the steps of Christ we must walk in to serve God “acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (1 Pet 2:21-25). This is “the true grace of God” wherein we stand (1 Pet 5:10-12).

12) “*Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach*” (Heb 13:13). The bodies of the Jews’ animal sacrifices under the Law of Moses were burned outside of the camp (Heb 13:11). Again, Jesus Christ was the ultimate sacrifice for sins, and he was crucified “outside the camp,” as Calvary was outside of the walls of Jerusalem. To follow in his steps, in being willing to partake of his sufferings in striving against sin (Heb 12:3-4; 1 Pet 2:19-25), we must go to him “without the camp” and bear his reproach. The next verse, Hebrews 13:14, reminds us that this world is not our home: “*For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*”

13) “By him therefore *let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually*, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Heb 13:15). As Christians, we are God’s holy priesthood and it is our job to offer up spiritual sacrifices to Him (1 Pet 2:5). To “give thanks” here is literally to *acknowledge*. Christ’s “name” is a reference to his *authority*. He has all authority in heaven and in earth (Matt 28:18; Php 2:9). We need to praise God continually, and acknowledge the authority He has given to His Son Jesus Christ (see also Php 2:10-11). This must be from our hearts, not just our lips (Matt 15:8; Titus 1:16). The next verse, Hebrews 13:16, also includes our deeds, as we are reminded not to forget “to do good and to communicate.” This is summarized well in Colossians 3:17: “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*”