

"LET US HOLD FAST..."

Hebrews 10:23

INTRODUCTION:

A. Paul has begun a series of exhortations

- 1) He pleads with the Hebrews to, "*draw near with a pure heart.*"
- 2) We are to draw near to God

B. He then pleads for them to, "*hold fast the profession of faith.*"

- 1) We may ask, "What is a profession of faith?"
- 2) "Why should we hold it fast?"

I. What Is A Profession Of Faith?

A. "*...the profession of our faith...*" vs 23a

- 1) *ομολογῶ* = "to speak or to say the same with another", "to agree with", "confess"
- 2) "*faith*" = *ἐλπίς* = "hope", "expectation of something future", "a dearly cherished and apparently well-grounded expectation and prospect of some desired good"
- 3) "Let us, without ever wavering, keep on holding to the hope that we profess."

B. We say that we have hope

- 1) We are firmly expecting that good will come to us in the future.
- 2) There is the "*blessed hope*" His coming
- 3) There is the "*Hope of glory*"
- 4) There is the "*hope of salvation*"
- 5) There is the "*hope of the resurrection*"
- 6) There is the "*hope of righteousness*"

C. Our hope is firmly linked to God

- 1) Our hope is in God *Psalms 39:7* - "*And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee.*"

- 2) We should rest in hope *Psalms 16:9* - "...my flesh also shall rest in hope."
- 3) We should not be ashamed of our hope *Psalms 119:116* -
"Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope."
- 4) We should defend our hope *I Peter 3:15* 14-16
 - 1) "answer" = ἀπολογία = "speech in defense"

D. It is our profession of hope

- 1) It is distinctly ours, leave it so, don't fabricate one
- 2) No one can touch our profession
- 3) No one can make it better or worse, we are the only one capable of such effects.

II. What Must We Do With Our Profession Of Hope?

A. "Let us hold fast..."

- 1) "hold fast" = κατεχω = "to hold down", "to have power over", "to attain and maintain power over"
- 2) We must have a hope and we must never abandon it. This may be done in many ways.

B. "...without wavering..."

- 1) "wavering" = ακλινης = "not inclining", "without bending", "not giving way"
- 2) "An unflinching avowal of our hope"

III. Why Must We Do It?

A. It is the power of our testimony

- 1) It must be kept salty
- 2) *Luke 14:34-35*

B. It is the anchor of our witness

- 1) If our profession is "leaning" we will be timid in our witnessing.
- 2) It is difficult to offer something to others when it's power is denied by our lifestyle.

C. It is a valuable asset

- 1) The fruit of it endures forever
- 2) The dividends of it are in heaven
- 3) Its benefits are immediate

IV. Jesus Will Never Fail To Do All That He Has Promised

A. *"for he is faithful that promised"* vs 23b

- 1) *"faithful"* = πιστος = "worthy of confidence"
- 2) *"promised"* = επαγγελομαι = "to announce ones intentions", "to engage", "to hold out"
- 3) "For there is no question that He will do what he says"

TAY

B. We can depend on God to help us

- 1) He will never leave us
- 2) He will never forsake us

