

deSilva, Hebrews, Session 8b, Resources from Notebooklm

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of deSilva, Hebrews, Session 8b, Hebrews 9:1-10:18: Christ our Atonement (Part 2), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. deSilva's lecture analyzes Hebrews 10:19-39, focusing on the author's exhortations to persevere in faith. **The text emphasizes** the importance of communal worship and mutual support within the Christian community, contrasting faithful perseverance with the dire consequences of apostasy. **DeSilva highlights** the author's use of rhetorical strategies, including appeals to both fear and confidence, and rational arguments based on advantage, justice, and feasibility. **He further explores** the author's adaptation of scriptural passages and the significance of boldness in both approaching God and witnessing to the faith. The lecture ultimately stresses the vital role of mutual encouragement and the enduring value of Christian fellowship in the face of adversity.

2. 20-minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. deSilva's, Hebrews, Session 8b – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → General Epistles → Hebrews).



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3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. David A. deSilva's "Hebrews, Session 9, Hebrews 10:19-39: Persevere unto Salvation":

Briefing Document: DeSilva on Hebrews 10:19-39

I. Overview & Context:

- **Shift from Exposition to Exhortation:** The author of Hebrews, after a lengthy exposition on Jesus' priesthood (7:1-10:18), now transitions to a significant block of exhortation (10:19 to the end of the sermon). This section is critical, focusing on how believers should respond to Christ's sacrifice.
- **Echoes of 4:14-16:** The exhortation in 10:19-25 directly recalls the language and themes of Hebrews 4:14-16, emphasizing the importance of holding onto the Christian confession and approaching God with boldness. DeSilva notes that this connection highlights this section as central to the author's exhortation to the audience.
- **Communal Emphasis:** While individual access to God is affirmed, this section places a special focus on the *communal* aspect of the Christian life, emphasizing the importance of not abandoning the gathering together of believers (10:25). This is where one draws near to God's throne of grace.
- **Consequences of Disregard:** The author supports positive exhortation by contrasting it with the dire consequences of rejecting Christ's gifts (10:26-31), portraying defection as a deliberate sin with no remaining sacrifice.
- **Encouragement to Persevere:** The text urges the audience to continue their previous commitment (10:32-39), drawing on past examples of faithfulness. This section concludes with an appeal to identify with those who remain loyal, setting the stage for the discussion of faith in chapter 11.

II. Key Themes and Ideas (with Supporting Quotes):

1. Bold Access to God through Jesus:

- Believers now have the "boldness for entrance into the holy places" (10:19) through the blood of Jesus and the "new and living path" (10:20) He opened.

- They have "a great priest over the household of God" (10:21) urging them on. This is a unique privilege, not enjoyed by previous generations, allowing them to "stand in God's very presence."
- The author seeks to instill confidence, noting their "glorious destiny is assured as long as they have the confidence and the boldness to keep moving forward into it." (DeSilva, page 2)

1. **Importance of the Christian Community:**

- Believers are called to "draw near" to God, which is connected with remaining within the Christian community (10:22).
- "not abandoning the gathering together of yourselves, but encouraging one another" (10:25) is crucial.
- The author argues against withdrawal as an act of ingratitude, eroding the determination of the group. "The withdrawal of the few also discourages those who remain, eroding their determination to hold on to their costly hope."
- The phrase "let us consider one another" (10:24) is not about figuring out how to motivate others, but "to notice his or her fellow disciples, to look closely at them...with the result of investing in them." (DeSilva, page 4)

1. **Holding Fast to Hope and Confession:**

- "Let us hold unwavering the confession of hope" (10:23), as had been previously urged (3:6, 4:14). This emphasizes the significance of their core beliefs and public profession of faith through association with the Christian group.
- The rationale for this is "the faithfulness or reliability of God, the one who has promised" (10:23). DeSilva connects this to the historical narrative in Hebrews that has prepared them to recognize God's reliability.

1. **The Danger of Intentional Sin/Defection:**

- "For if we intentionally continue to sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there remains no longer a sacrifice for sins" (10:26).
- This is specifically about defection from the community, "actions of those who... choose the temporary benefits of hiding or abandoning their connection with the believing community and with Christ."

- Defection is a willful violation and affront to God's honor: trampling the Son of God underfoot, regarding the blood of the covenant as common, and insulting the Spirit of favor (10:29). "The author presents drifting away from firm commitment to the group in the starkest of terms in an attempt to make such a course of action so appalling as to be unthinkable." (DeSilva, page 7)
- Such behavior leads to a "fearful expectation of judgment and of a zealous fire that is on the verge of consuming the opponents" (10:27).

1. **Past Faithfulness as Motivation:**

- Remembering their past endurance (10:32-34) is an appeal to continue in the same way. "Appeals to a group's own past achievements often served as a basis for encouragement to future endeavors."
- They "endured a great contest of sufferings" (10:32), not as victims, but as participants in a competition for honor. DeSilva notes how the athletic imagery subverts the message of marginalization.
- The past experience is presented as "a stunning example of the faithfulness that God honors and rewards." (DeSilva, page 9)

1. **The Imminent Return of Christ and Final Judgment:**

- The coming of Christ is near, "for yet a very little while, the coming one will come and will not delay" (10:37). This should encourage perseverance.
- The text uses scripture (Isaiah 26:20 and Habakkuk 2:3-4) to emphasize the proximity of the "day of reward and judgment".
- The author creatively interprets Habakkuk, applying "If he shrinks back" not to Christ but to those who wait for God's deliverance. This highlights the choice between faith that leads to preservation and shrinking back that leads to destruction.
- **Living a Life of Gratitude and Boldness:** The text calls for a life of gratitude that embraces "heart, mind, body, and desire." (DeSilva, page 14)
- Believers should be bold in their witness and discipleship, not hiding their faith to gain the approval of the world. "Do not throw away your boldness" (10:35), a boldness that includes both access to God and public witness.
- There should be "a full vigor and full trust, firm commitment, and faith, letting no worldly object detour or delay us." (DeSilva, page 14)

III. Rhetorical and Pastoral Strategies:

- **Emotional Appeals:** The author strategically uses appeals to both confidence and fear. Confidence is instilled by reminding the readers of their access to God and past faithfulness while fear is used by painting a grim picture of defection and judgment.
- **Rational Argumentation:** The author appeals to relative advantage (choosing eternal rewards over temporary gains), justice (being grateful to God for His sacrifice), and feasibility (drawing from the past).
- **Emphasis on Ultimate Challenge:** The author shifts focus from everyday challenges to the ultimate challenge of encountering God at judgment.
- **Importance of Mutual Support:** The text emphasizes the responsibility of Christians to support each other in perseverance, especially those facing persecution.
- "let us look at one another, really look at one another, until an explosion of love and good works is the outcome." (DeSilva, page 14) This goes beyond just local churches to the global community of believers.
- **Challenge to Value God's Gifts:** "Our lives must reflect the great value of the gift we have received, which means responding to God with a gratitude that embraces heart, mind, body, and desire." (DeSilva, page 14)

IV. Conclusion:

The passage in Hebrews 10:19-39 is a powerful exhortation to the readers to persevere in their faith, maintaining their public witness and mutual support within the Christian community. The author emphasizes the immense privilege believers have through Christ, the dire consequences of defection, and the imminent arrival of their ultimate reward. The passage is meant to encourage a life of gratitude and bold devotion to God, rejecting the allure of the world and embracing the path of faithfulness. This reading shows how the author of Hebrews has strategically deployed emotional, logical, and scriptural arguments to move his audience to perseverance.

This briefing doc should provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the main ideas in the text provided.

4. Hebrews Study Guide: 9, Hebrews 10:19-39, Persevere unto Salvation

Hebrews 10:19-39 Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How does the author of Hebrews connect the exhortation in 10:19-25 to a previous passage in the letter?
2. According to Hebrews, what two essential things have the addressees gained that should propel them forward on their Christian journey?
3. What does the author suggest is the "opposite of shrinking back" in this passage, and what does he think motivates some to withdraw from the Christian community?
4. How does the author of Hebrews use the concept of "cleansing" in 10:22-23?
5. What does the author mean when he says, "let us keep considering one another unto an explosion of love and good works," and what is the significance of the word "explosion?"
6. What does the author say is the sin for which there is no remaining sacrifice in 10:26, and how does that tie into his previous exhortations?
7. How does the author use the example of those who violated the Mosaic law in 10:28-29 to make a point about those who reject Christ?
8. According to the author of Hebrews, how did the believers demonstrate faith in the past, as referenced in 10:32-34?
9. How does the author use the scripture from Habakkuk 2:3-4 in 10:37-38, and how does it differ from the original context?
10. In Hebrews 10:39, what two contrasting groups does the author highlight, and how does he associate faith with the preservation of life?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The author highlights the connection by specifically returning to the language of Hebrews 4:14-16, thereby reaffirming the importance of holding onto their

confession of hope and drawing near to the Christian community. This reiteration underscores the centrality of their faith in Christ's priesthood.

2. The addressees have gained boldness to enter holy places and a great high priest over the household of God, empowering them to access God's presence and move forward in their faith with confidence.
3. The author suggests that "drawing near" is the opposite of shrinking back, emphasizing remaining with the Christian community as a vital practice. He suggests that some are withdrawing due to a lack of gratitude for Christ's gift and a desire to avoid the hardships that come with following Jesus.
4. The author uses the concept of cleansing both metaphorically, the sprinkling of the heart with the blood of Jesus to cleanse the conscience, and literally, the washing of bodies with clean water, most likely baptism, as a visible sign of entrance into the Christian community.
5. The phrase means that Christians should intentionally look closely at and understand one another's needs and struggles, resulting in an outpouring of love and good deeds toward them. The word "explosion" suggests that this love and action should be an abundant and powerful response.
6. The sin is the intentional and willful choice to abandon or hide their connection with the believing community after receiving the knowledge of the truth. This ties into the exhortation to remain within the Christian community and not to withdraw.
7. The author uses the example of those who violated the Mosaic Law and were punished to make an argument from lesser to greater. He suggests that rejecting Jesus and his sacrifice is a far greater offense and will result in a proportionally greater punishment.
8. The believers demonstrated faith by enduring a great contest of sufferings, including public reproach, trials, sympathy for those in prison, and joyful acceptance of the seizure of their property. They did not let persecution prevent their participation in their Christian community.
9. The author creatively compiles scripture, and applies it to his audience rather than to its original referent. This scripture is meant to reinforce the nearness of the reward and judgment, while also exhorting perseverance.

10. The author highlights those who "shrink back unto destruction," characterized by cowardice and distrust, and those "of faith unto the preservation of life," marked by trust and firmness, emphasizing that faith is essential to persevering and receiving eternal life.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following essay questions in a well-structured essay format. Provide specific examples from the source material to support your argument.

1. Analyze the author's use of rhetorical devices in Hebrews 10:19-39. How do appeals to emotion, reason, and scriptural authority work together to achieve the author's persuasive goals?
2. Discuss the significance of communal life in Hebrews 10:19-39. How does the author stress the importance of gathering together, and why is this so crucial for the preservation of faith?
3. Explore the author's concept of "willful sin" in Hebrews 10:26-31. What actions constitute this type of sin, and what are the severe consequences for committing it according to the author?
4. Examine how the author uses the past experiences of his audience to encourage them in the present in Hebrews 10:32-39. How do memories of their prior endurance and courage serve to strengthen their commitment to Christ?
5. Compare the author's use of the Habakkuk text in Hebrews 10:37-38 to its original context and discuss how the author's adaptation of the text serves the pastoral needs of the audience.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Parrhesia (Boldness):** The Greek word used in the text which refers to confidence, openness, and freedom of speech. In this context, it refers to both the believers' confidence in their access to God and their willingness to openly declare their faith.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final events in history, particularly concerning judgment, the second coming of Christ, and the ultimate destiny of humanity.

- **Apostate:** A person who has abandoned their religious or political beliefs or principles. In this context, it refers to someone who has deliberately turned away from the Christian faith.
- **Benefactor:** Someone who gives a gift or favor, especially one that is significant. In the text, God and Jesus are the benefactors of the believers, and the proper response to them is gratitude.
- **Sanctification:** The process of being made or becoming holy. This refers to the believers being set apart for God's purposes through the blood of Christ.
- **Hubris:** Excessive pride or self-confidence, often resulting in a defiance of the divine. In this context, it is the attitude of those who reject Christ and his gifts.
- **Charis:** The Greek word meaning grace, favor, or kindness. In this context, it refers to God's favor and kindness towards the believers.
- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, commonly used by Jews in the first century and by the author of Hebrews.
- **Ingratitude:** A lack of thankfulness or appreciation, considered a severe moral failing in the text, especially when directed toward God.
- **Katanoēō (Keep Considering):** The Greek verb used in the text, which means to observe closely, to notice, or to understand. The author's use of this word implores Christians to look at one another's struggles so that they can better love and serve each other.

5. FAQs on DeSilva, Hebrews, Session 9, Hebrews 10:19-39, Persevere unto Salvation, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions About Hebrews 10:19-39

1. **What is the primary focus of the exhortation in Hebrews 10:19-25, and how does it connect to an earlier passage in Hebrews?** The primary focus is on the appropriate response to Christ's costly sacrifice, which grants believers access to God. Specifically, the author calls them to draw near to God with boldness and unwavering faith within the Christian community, emphasizing the importance of not forsaking their gatherings. This exhortation echoes the earlier call in Hebrews 4:14-16, underscoring its significance. The author stresses that this access is not merely individual but also communal.
2. **What does the author mean by "drawing near" to God, and how does this relate to the Christian community?** "Drawing near" is not simply a vague suggestion but an intentional choice to remain actively engaged with the Christian community where God is found. This involves participating in communal worship, fellowship, and mutual encouragement. It's a deliberate move towards God and away from "shrinking back", which is equated to abandoning the Christian journey. The act of drawing near is also associated with having been cleansed both in heart and body through Christ's sacrifice, setting believers apart from the world.
3. **How does the author emphasize the importance of perseverance and unwavering faith in Hebrews 10:23-25?** The author emphasizes the necessity of holding "unwavering the confession of hope," reinforcing the need to maintain core Christian beliefs and public witness. This includes actively investing in relationships within the Christian community and not abandoning their gatherings. He connects this perseverance to the faithfulness and reliability of God, the one who made the promises, as exemplified throughout the book of Hebrews, from the Exodus generation to Abraham.
4. **How does the author interpret the concept of "considering one another" in Hebrews 10:24, and what is the intended outcome?** The author doesn't frame it as figuring out how to *make* others love or do good, but rather as a call to pay close attention to the struggles and challenges of fellow believers. This attentive observation should naturally lead to an "outburst of love and good works,"

fostering a supportive and caring community where members bear one another's burdens. The communal aspect is crucial.

5. **What is the author warning against in Hebrews 10:26-31, and what are the consequences for those who commit this sin?** The author warns against intentionally turning away from the Christian faith and abandoning the Christian community. This is not about unintentional sin but a willful rejection of Christ's sacrifice and the benefits it provides. Such an act is considered a paramount act of ingratitude, and those who choose this path face a fearful expectation of God's judgment. This warning is meant to be a stark contrast to the blessings they have received through Christ's sacrifice.
6. **How does the author use the past experiences of the audience to encourage them to persevere, as seen in Hebrews 10:32-34?** The author reminds them of their past endurance and suffering, framing it as a "great contest" they have already won. This rhetorical move creates confidence by highlighting their prior success, discouraging them from abandoning their investment, and instilling a fear of marring their past victories through current failure. He specifically praises their acts of sympathy toward the imprisoned and joyful acceptance of the seizure of their property, connecting those actions to their possession of better and lasting spiritual possessions.
7. **What does the author mean by "boldness" (parrhesia) in Hebrews 10:35, and how is it connected to the audience's access to God?** "Boldness" refers both to the believer's confident access to God through Christ and their open public declaration of hope and faith even in the face of societal opposition. Throwing away this boldness suggests losing the confidence in God and his promises but also to hide or shrink away from public association with other believers. Therefore, it is both a vertical relationship with God, and a horizontal relationship with other believers. Maintaining this boldness is crucial for ultimately receiving their reward.
8. **How does the author's use of Habakkuk 2:3-4, in Hebrews 10:37-39, underscore his pastoral goals, and what contrasting paths does it present?** The author creatively reinterprets Habakkuk, emphasizing the nearness of Christ's coming and the need for continued faith. The scripture is reconfigured to highlight two paths: one of trusting God and remaining firm, leading to life, and the other of shrinking back due to fear, which displeases God and leads to destruction. He encourages his audience to identify with those who trust and persevere, as this will secure their lives and eternal destiny.