

INTRODUCTION - text is motivation to remain faithful.

(v23) "Hold fast" - grip it; clasp; hold tightly; in a manner that it will not break away.

"The confession of our hope" - "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"

It began at our baptism, and it will be made numerous times in Christian living.

"Without wavering" - don't be wishy-washy, back 'n forth, hem 'n haw, teeter.

(v24) "Consider one another" in order to stir up love and good works"

(v25) "Exhorting one another, and so much the more ... "

1. THERE'S A WARNING AGAINST DIMINISHED FAITH

(v26) "For if we sin willfully" - you abandoned all demonstration of faith; you quit; marks of Christianity are not obvious; and it's deliberate.

(James 2:26) "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Consequences listed:

(v26) "There no longer remains a sacrifice for sins"

So, the rejection of Christ's one sacrifice for sins
can only result in you being left with none at all.
There is no "Plan B" offered to you for salvation.

(v27) "A certain fearful expectation of judgment"

(v31) "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"

It's a pointed warning of judgment to come, and it is "fearful"
because He is a "living God."

(v29) "Has trampled the Son of God under-foot"

You are given a visual of what your actions really are. Not good!

(v29) "Counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing"

Yes, you were "sanctified" and enjoyed all "spiritual blessings."
"A common thing" - now your view of Christ's sacrifice is uneventful,
and it is not so wonderful or marvelous or amazing.

(v29) "And insulted the Spirit of grace" - a gracious gift is rejected.

2. THE REMEDY - while you are alive, there is hope for return.

(v32) "RECALL the former days ... " - remember when?

"You were illuminated" - light of the gospel shone and you obeyed.

"You endured a great struggle with sufferings" - you overcame,
lasted through,, saw the worth of being steadfast. Don't give up now!

(v33) **"You were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations"**

Those on the out-side enjoyed watching you suffer; yet, you over-came.

"You became companions of those who were so treated" - mutual woes!

(v34) **"You had compassion on me ("prisoners") in my chains"**

"You joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods" - (James 1:2-4)

"You have a BETTER AND ENDURING POSSESSION" - Amen!

It's an eternal possession: (2 Corinthians 5:1; Matthew 5:19-20)

3. (v35) "THEREFORE ... " - I said all of that to say this!

(v35) **"Do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward"**

Heaven will be worth it all. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

(v36) **"You have need of endurance"**

"Endurance" - you do not break-down from use; continue; abide.

The victory of faith is not achieved by one brilliant campaign,
but by a lifetime of patient and faithful service.

"You may receive the promise" - (John 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

(v38) **"Now the just shall live by faith"** - (3 John v4)

CLOSE: (V39) **"But we are NOT OF THOSE who draw back to perdition,
BUT OF THOSE who believe to the saving of the soul" !!!**