

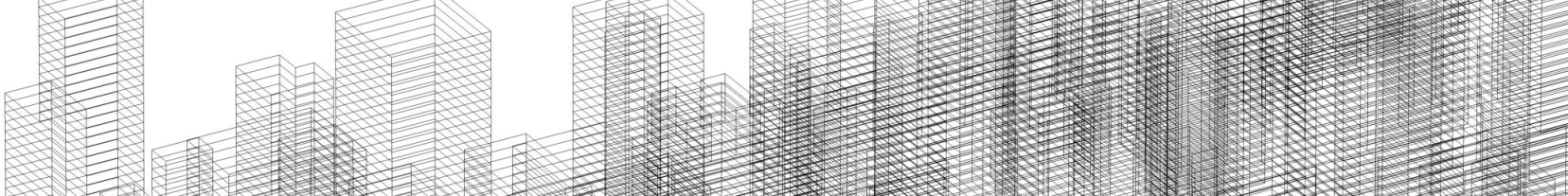


Why Be Afraid?

Hebrews 10: 19-39

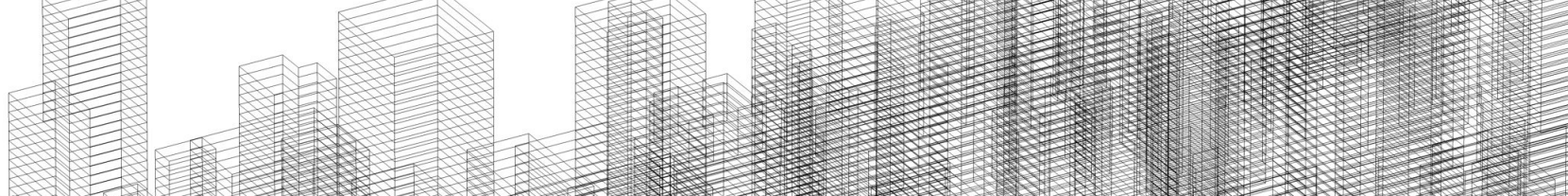
Why Be Afraid?

A hiker with a large red backpack is walking across a suspension bridge that spans a deep valley filled with dense green forest. The bridge is made of metal cables and a mesh floor. In the background, there are rolling mountains under a hazy sky. The text "Why Be Afraid?" is overlaid on the left side of the image, with a short horizontal line above it.



Why Be Afraid?

Hebrews 9:14 -- “how much more does the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit, offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God.”



The Ides of March

March 15th

Anna Perenna, the New Year

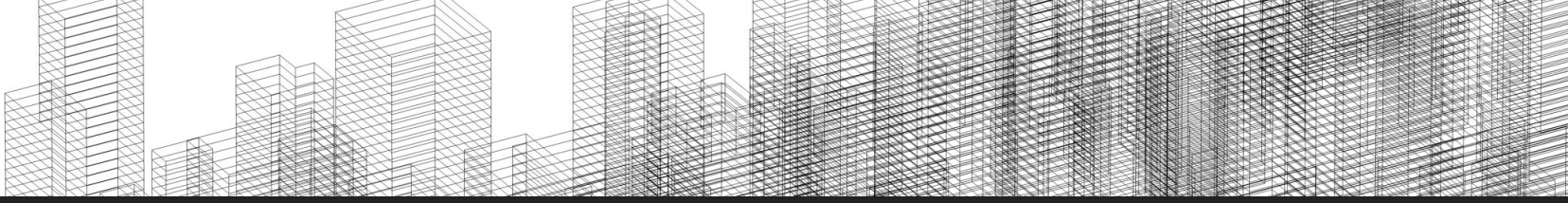
**Ancient
Rome:
Sacrifice to
gods**

Diana - the goddess of Fertility

To get something → Greed

Jupiter - the god of Lightning,
Thunder, and Storms

Afraid → Fear



Why Be Afraid?

COVID-19

Illness - Death

Job Loss- Poverty

Retirement Funds - Future Hope

Hebrews 10: 19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 19:26-31

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:32-36

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Hebrews 10:37-39

For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.”

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Why Be Afraid?

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a **fearful expectation of judgment**, and a **fury of fire** that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses **dies without mercy** on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse **punishment**, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has **trampled** underfoot the Son of God, and has **profaned** the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has **outraged** the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "**Vengeance** is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will **judge** his people." 31 It is a **fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**.

Why Be Afraid?

There is reason to fear if -

we are somehow going against God;

we are ignoring the wonderful work of Christ who sacrificed himself for us;

we disrespect the contract God has made with us: Christ's death in return for my life;

we dismiss the gentle work of God's Spirit in us.

No Fear versus Fear

THIS WORLD

go against God

HEALTH

ignore Christ's sacrifice

LIFE

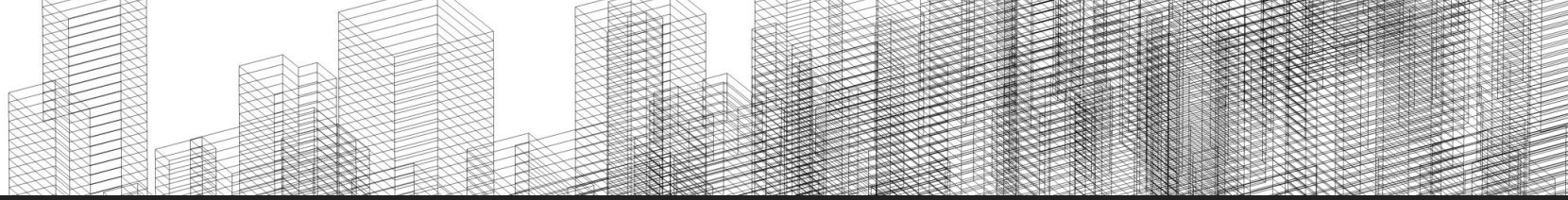
disrespect God's contract

WEALTH

dismiss God's Spirit in us

Journey of the Hebrew Christians

32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.



Hebrews 10:19-39

Settle the Big Issues in Life -- First

→ a conscious commitment to Christ

→ Holy Spirit control in your life

Danger of
Spiritual
Regression

FEAR and
UNCERTAINTY

GREED

How to Live through Fear or Greed

Let Us Draw near in full assurance (22)

Let Us Hold unswervingly to the promise (23)

Let Us Meet and Encourage (24,25)

Recall the hard times (32)

Let Us Draw Near with Full Assurance

Honesty : About who I am

About Who Jesus is - the Final Word Heb 1:2

- the Exact Representation of God 1:3
- sits at the Right Hand of God 1:3

Heb 10: 19-22a (Lane)

“Therefore, brethren, since we have authorization for free access to the heavenly sanctuary by means of the blood of Jesus, a way which is new and leads to life, which he made available for us through the curtain .. of his flesh .. and since we have a great priest in charge of God’s household, let us continue to draw near to God, with sincere heart in fullness of faith”

How to Live through Fear or Greed

Let Us Draw near in full assurance (22)

Let Us Hold unswervingly to the promise (23)

Let Us Meet and Encourage (24,25)

Recall the hard times (32)

Let Us Hold Unswervingly to the Promise

Not just now, but forever!

Neither doubt nor fear

Bear Testimony and Stand Firm

How to Live through Fear or Greed

Let Us Draw near in full assurance (22)

Let Us Hold unswervingly to the promise (23)

Let Us Meet and Encourage (24,25)

Recall the hard times (32)

Let Us Meet and Encourage One Another

- More than good food and personal conversation
- encourage progress in the faith
- Show care and respect for one another

How to Live through Fear or Greed

Let Us Draw near in full assurance (22)

Let Us Hold unswervingly to the promise (23)

Let Us Meet and Encourage (24,25)

Recall the hard times (32)

Recall the Hard Times

- hardest times in your life: God was there for you
- Evaluate progress you have made
- Going forward, God centered goals

How to Live through Fear or Greed

Let Us Draw near in full assurance (22)

Let Us Hold unswervingly to the promise (23)

Let Us Meet and Encourage (24,25)

Recall the hard times (32)

Soul Value 10:39

We are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, but are *those who have faith and preserve their souls*

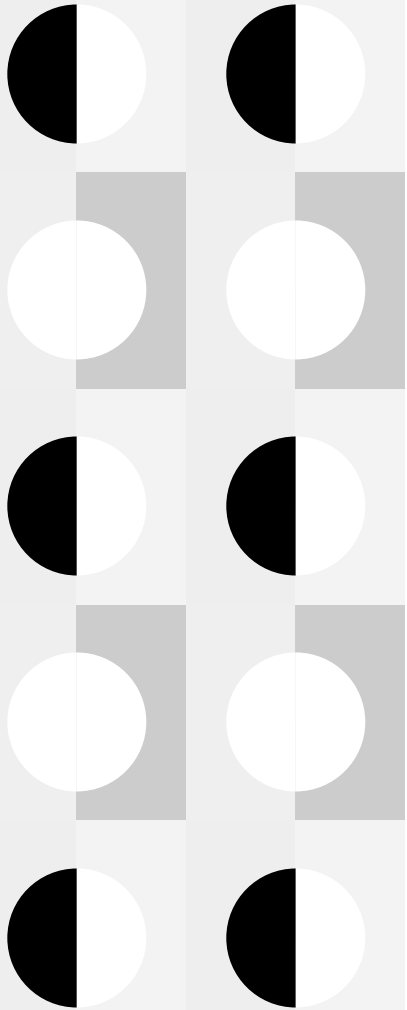


Summary

Why Be Afraid?

Illegitimate: Money, Health, Suffering, Life because we have given up all for Christ

Legitimate: God's Way, Jesus' sacrifice, God's Covenant, Holy Spirit



In times of Fear and Uncertainty

Draw Near

Hold Fast

Meet and Encourage

Recall Former Trials

Most of all, Value the Soul