

Hebrews 10:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Analysis

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. Building on their past faithfulness (verses 32-34), the author exhorts continued perseverance. "Cast not away" (mē apobalēte, μὴ ἀποβάλητε) is an aorist subjunctive with negative particle—don't throw away, don't abandon. The warning implies they were tempted to discard something valuable. The image is of deliberately throwing away treasure out of weariness or discouragement.

"Your confidence" (tēn parrēsian hymōn, τὴν παρρησίαν ὑμῶν) means boldness, openness, confidence—specifically their bold confession of Christ and confident access to God through Him (Hebrews 4:16, 10:19). This confidence is precious—it enables prayer, worship, witness, and perseverance. To cast it away is to abandon the very foundation of Christian life.

"Which hath great recompence of reward" (hētis echei megalēn misthapodosian, ἥτις ἔχει μεγάλην μισθαποδοσίαν) provides motivation. Misthapodosian means reward, recompense, payment. The confidence they're tempted to abandon carries immense future reward. Present suffering is temporary; eternal reward is forever. To abandon confidence for relief from temporary suffering is to trade eternal treasure for momentary ease—a catastrophic bargain.

This verse balances warning with encouragement. The warning (don't cast away) presupposes the possibility of abandoning faith—a real danger requiring vigilance. The encouragement (great reward) provides motivation to endure. Christian

perseverance isn't grim duty but hope-filled confidence in certain, magnificent reward.

Historical Context

The original readers, facing ongoing persecution, were tempted to recant Christian profession to escape suffering. Renouncing Christ might restore property, family relationships, employment, and physical safety. The temptation was real and powerful. The author reminds them that what they gain by denying Christ (temporary earthly relief) pales compared to what they lose (eternal reward).

Throughout church history, Christians facing persecution have struggled with this choice. During Diocletian's persecution (303-313 AD), many Christians surrendered Scripture copies or offered incense to pagan gods to save their lives. Some, called "traditors" (those who handed over), later sought restoration to the church. The Donatist controversy involved whether such people could be true Christians. The biblical answer: genuine believers persevere; those who permanently abandon faith demonstrate their profession was never genuine (1 John 2:19).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What circumstances or pressures most tempt you to compromise your Christian confession or confidence?
2. How does meditating on future eternal reward strengthen present faithfulness and endurance?
3. In what practical ways can you cultivate and maintain confident boldness in your Christian walk?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	ἀποβάλητε	οὖν	τὴν	παρόρησίαν	ὑμῶν	ἣτις	ἔχει
not	Cast	therefore	G3588	confidence	your	which	hath
G3361	G577	G3767		G3954	G5216	G3748	G2192
μισθαποδοσίαν		μεγάλην					
recompence of reward		great					
G3405		G3173					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Hebrews 3:6 (Parallel theme): But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Luke 14:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

Hebrews 11:26 (Parallel theme): Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Hebrews 4:14 (Parallel theme): Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Matthew 5:12 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Hebrews 3:14 (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Matthew 10:32 (Parallel theme): Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:42 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Psalms 19:11 (Parallel theme): Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

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