

Better Things for the Beloved!

(An Encouragement to Persevere to the End)

Text: Hebrews 6:9-12

Main Idea: Unlike the apostates, God's blessings are certain for His children, who serve & love each other diligently building up the assurance of their hope as they persevere in faith and patience!

1. **Know this:** God has _____ things planned for you! (v. 9-10)
 - You are God's _____!
 - God is _____: He is neither _____ nor _____!
 - God has blessings & not _____ planned for you! (Eph 1, 1 Thes 1:10)
2. **Do this:** _____ is NOT an option for you! (v. 10)
 - We must diligently continue working to _____ for each other!
 - We must diligently continue _____ each other! (1 John 4:7-11)
 - We must diligently continue being _____ by the glory of God (His name)!
3. **Why this:** Perseverance builds _____! (11-12)
 - Because persevering _____ is evidence that we will inherit God's promises.
 - Because persevering _____ in the trials of life is evidence that we will inherit God's promises.

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Application Questions:

1. Not everyone who claims to be one of the “beloved” (Child of God) is a genuine believer. So what objective evidence does the writer give us by which to evaluate your self? There are at least 4 characteristics in this passage that define genuine believers!
2. It is not a small thing to be loved by God! (See 1 John 3:1) Despite whatever circumstances you are going through, do you personally know and experience the love of God in your life? What “better things” has God reserved for you? (See Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 Thess 1:10)
3. Are you a loving person? Read 1Thess 4:9-10. Why does Paul say we are able to love others? Notice that he encourages them to “excel still more” in the area of loving others. Specifically think about the words that you speak to others. How could you love others more with your words? How about your actions toward your spouse, your parents, your neighbor, your fellow Church member? (1 Jn 4:7-11)
4. How do you “work...in ministering to the saints?” Who is in your life (besides your family) that you are ministering directly? Would you be willing to make someone a meal, a phone call, a visit, to pray with, help physically, etc? If so call or email one of your pastors and let them know you are willing and ready to serve the saints when called upon.
5. What two specific character traits does the writer say must be present in the life of the believer in v. 12 if he is to inherit the promises God has for us? What are you doing in order to continue in faith?
6. Why is patience such a big deal in persevering to the end? Is there anything in your life right now that has you discouraged? Have you considered that God is using your trial to build patience & endurance in your life? (See James 1:2-4) How might you pray that God would use this trial?

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