**Hebrews 10:19-25**

Introduction

I. Our Summer series on being eternally minded

II. Consider the person next to you

They have one very short life to life. After that they will stand before God to give an account of their lives and that account will impact their eternity. What do you want your role in their life to be?

The Passage

I. Context of Hebrews

A. Hb 12:1: Life is like a long distance race that we must run with perseverance. Eternity is the finish line. The audience of Hebrews was tempted to give up and abandon the faith in light of the persecution and challenges, so the call is to hold on and continue the race with perseverance

B. Hb 10:19-22: These verses communicate the gospel message of salvation (through Christ’s sacrifice and his high priestly ministry) and encourage us to draw near to God with full assurance

C. Hb 10:23: This verse points us ahead to the promise of eternity and calls us to move towards that promise without swerving much like a runner runs wholeheartedly and purposefully towards that finish line

II. What does it look like to run this race together?

A. Spurring one another on towards love and good deeds (v. 24)

 1. “Spur” has an edge to it, a challenge and a pushing to it (like spurring a horse)

 2. But what we’re spurring each on to is “love and good deeds”

3. Let us “consider” how to spur each other on. This takes some thought and reflection and intentionality

3. This command speaks to the danger of distraction

a. Over the course of our life’s race, we can lose focus on the finish line and start looking to the right and left

 b. We get distracted by wealth, success, applause, ambition, entertainment, sin

c. Sometimes we need another believer to come alongside us and spur us on and keep us focused on the finish line

B. Encouraging each other as we see the day approaching (v. 25)

 1. This is a softer word that doesn’t have the edge of “spur”

 -It is the word Jesus uses to speak of the Holy Spirit’s role (comforter/counselor)

 2. This command speaks to the danger of discouragement

a. Over the course of our life’s race, we can get discouraged by all the challenges and just want to give up or check out for a while

b. We get discouraged by our own sin, by what’s happening in the world, and by the general trials of life

c. We need someone to gently come alongside us and encourage us (= give courage)

C. Do not neglect meeting together (v. 25)

1. We are living in a very individualistic culture where people often view their faith in only “me and God” terms and others’ faith in “you and God” terms

2. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9). We often think like that, but Scripture calls us to run this race together and to spur each other on and encourage each other.

Conclusion

I. What is the wake you leave behind?

A. As you interact with other Christians, what is the wake your presence leaves behind?

B. Do they walk away from time with you more focused on God and eternity and Christ-like qualities, or more focused on worldly things?

C. One example: our speaking (Eph 4:29)

In your conversations with people, what do you focus on, and how do your words build them up and encourage them?

II. Who has God put in your life at this time that needs some encouragement and spurring on?

**Discussion Questions**

1. On Sunday, we talked about life as a race towards the finish line of eternity, and we talked about how we are to run this race together. How did that image of running a race side by side with each other impact you?

2. The command to “spur one another on” has a bit of an edge to it (think of a cowboy spurring a horse to keep it going). How do we do that well in each other’s lives? When have you seen that spurring done well? When have you seen it done poorly?

3. The command to “encourage” each other is a central biblical command. Share a time in your life where someone gave you great spiritual encouragement? What was it about what they did that was so helpful?

4. At the end of Sunday’s message, we were encouraged to think about our speaking with other believers. Read together Ephesians 4:29. As you consider your own conversations along these lines, where are you convicted and where are you encouraged?