

3 x 'LET US' leaves for lockdown salad!

Reading - Hebrews Ch 10 v 11-25

It goes without saying that we are going through challenging times and many are struggling with the lockdown and longing for a return to "normal". The book of Hebrews was written to Christians who were fed up, undergoing trials and kept looking back to a previous time and situation which they thought was better. The writer seeks to encourage them by pointing out the superiority of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The 1st **LET US** leaf -

v 22 "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings."

What a wonderful invitation at a time when we are apart maintaining social distancing to have this invitation to come into the presence of God - and not at a distance. The grounds for this proximity are found in v12 - the sacrifice of our Saviour and His resurrection. I think it is great that it is not just the assurance of faith, but the full assurance. So often we are like Thomas who said he had to see first, when Jesus appeared and presented Himself to the disciples. Jesus said "be not faithless, but believing"

The 2nd **LET US** leaf -

v23 "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."

What is that hope? My thought is that it is the 2nd coming of our Lord. We read in Titus Ch2v13 - **"while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."**

He Himself promised that He would come again. **John 14 v2 - "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."**

The 3rd **LET US** leaf -

v^{24,25} **Let us** consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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."

We are so fortunate that we can use modern technology to meet and encourage each other by social media as well as pen and paper and as we look forward to the end of lockdown and our meeting together in Summer Street let us continue to look forward to that great Day as described by the aging apostle John in his vision

Revelation 21 v 2-4

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."