

Text: Hebrews 10.39

Grace Meinel confirmation.

**May 7, 2017.**

**But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.**

You know, Grace, I was a little surprised that you chose this verse, to not shrink back, because if you know Grace, she doesn't strike you as this in your face, loud, person. But then I thought about it more and realized how well it fit. Grace, you haven't been shy to join adult Bible study, even at age ten or eleven. That's pretty bold. And sure enough, every time we went around the circle and read, Grace's verse was the one like, "Abner son of Ner, had taken Ishbosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim." None of the adults really wanted to struggle through all those names. But Grace didn't mind.

Grace, don't shrink back. Don't be timid. Don't be shy. The result of being timid? Destruction! The end goal of shrinking back? Being destroyed. That ought to be enough to scare us straight and we all ought to be on fire for Jesus and standing out and sticking up and... But come on. It's so easy, even for me, when you aren't in church, to just be quiet, to just fall in line, to laugh with the person who brags about his sins and go along with the crowd that's walking off the cliff to destruction.

Grace, God has something better in mind for you. He wants to save your soul. He wants nothing more than to take you to heaven. Jesus wants to preserve your soul so much he went all the way to death, just for you. He didn't care about the destruction of his body. He cared about the preservation of your soul.

There's an end result to your faith: being saved. God doesn't want destruction for you. He wants preservation of your soul. God doesn't want to lose you. He wants you to gain heaven. When we live by faith and die in faith, our souls will be safe forever. Don't shrink back. Stand out! Stand up! Don't be timid. You don't have to be a jerk. Speak up! Step out of line with sin and popular opinion. I have some Christian friends who thank me every time we have Bible study. They say, "Thanks, Pastor, for telling us like it is. Thanks for telling us the truth. Thanks for not messing around with the Bible." Grace, there are people longing for someone to stand up, so they can stand up with you. Don't shrink back and be destroyed. Trust in Jesus and he'll carry you. Believe and be saved. Amen.