

Walking Away  
**HEBREWS 10: 26-39**

## Hebrews 10: 19

- The positive response to the gospel message  
Hebrews 10:19-25
- The negative response to the gospel message  
Hebrews 10:26-31

# The Warning Passages of Hebrews

- 1. Chapter 2 The danger of drifting. (2:1-4)
- 2. Chapter 3 The danger of unbelief (3:12-19)
- 2. Chapters 4 The danger of not entering into faith-rest. (4:1-11)
- 3. Chapters 6 The danger of falling away. (6:4-8)
- 4. Chapter 10 The danger of willful sin. (10:26-31)
- 5. Chapter 12 The danger of indifference to the point of denial. (12:25-29)

## The Context: Hebrews 10: 19-25

- <sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

# The Fullness of Salvation

- This passage describes three features of the experience of salvation.
- 1. Faith – drawing near
- 2. Hope – hope in salvation
- 3. Love – loving one another

## Hebrews 10: 26-31

- <sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” <sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

# Hebrews 10:26-31

- 1. The use of the word “willfully” or “deliberately”
  - Sinning with a high hand
  - This is deliberate, intentional sinning, not an inadvertent sinning.
- Much more serious than what the apostle Paul calls, “being caught in any trespass:” “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)
- This is a deserting the living God.

## Hebrews 10:26-31

- “But the person who does anything defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.” (Numbers 15:30)
- Defiantly rejecting

# The Knowledge of the Truth

- 2. What is being rejected here?
- “sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth” (v. 26)
- The “knowledge of the truth”
- The truth that the author has been teaching – Christ is the great high priest who has died to pay for our sins and allow us access to God.
- “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Timothy 3:7)
- The truth is “received” but that is the end of the truth, it is received.

# What Kind of “*Knowledge*” of the Truth

- There are two words in the Koine Greek for “knowledge”
- *Gnosis* – to know, or knowledge
- *Epignosis* – means a knowledge that involves a 'full discernment', or “full belief” which is 'to become fully acquainted with' or to have a full understanding of something. This is deep understanding.

# Who is the Subject of the Admonition?

- 3. What kind of person is the author talking about?
- This is not someone who just doesn't know God
- The truth is "received" and it is understood with Epignosis, -- this person understands the who Christ is and what the atonement means --- it is received.
- But the truth goes no where
- "I hear you" ("OK") (not agreement but "I comprehend what you are saying")
- Difference between "roger" and "roger – wilco"
- "I will take that under advisement"

# Who is the Subject of the Admonition?

- Who is this person who receives the knowledge of the truth?
  - A year doing everything the Bible says to do.
  - “A.J. Jacobs: My year of living biblically”
  - “Author, philosopher, prankster and journalist A.J. Jacobs talks about the year he spent living biblically -- following the rules in the Bible as literally as possible.”

# A Deep Understanding But Without Agreement

- *Epignosis* is not “*metanoia*” (turning away)
- There is no evidence that this is a turning away from the old self and being regenerated by the Holy Spirit
- This is not an understanding that is indicative of the new birth of John 3.

# No Acceptance

- How can we know that this is not someone who belongs to God? V. 29
- 29 “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?”

# No Acceptance

- 1. He has trampled under his feet the Son of God
- 2. He has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant, that is Christ's blood, as if it were the blood from an unclean animal.
- 3. He has insulted the Spirit of grace.
- This clearly means that this is not a person who has received salvation, one who belongs to God.

# No Sacrifice For Sin is Left

- 1. After having a deep understanding of the knowledge of the truth (full revelation has been received)
- 2. Willful and deliberate sin
- 3. there is a rejection of full revelation
- This is called “apostasy” THEN...
- **3. There is no longer a sacrifice for sins** (not this sin but “sins”)
- V. 27 “but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.”

# How Much More

- A fortiori argument
- If you rejected the law of Moses one would die on the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses
- A fortiori – how much more therefore, if one rejects the lamb of God, God's Son and His atonement?
- Because the Son's atonement is far beyond the law, it is the consummation and the fulfillment of the law.

# Apostasy

- A person who is in apostasy is called an “apostate”
- An apostate is an “adversary.”
- One who understands and opposes
- The adversaries of God who know who God is but oppose Him.
- John 6:70 “Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, yet one of you is a devil?”
- James 2:19 “You believe that God is one. You do well, the demons also believe, and shudder.

# An Apostate Receives Judgment

- Matthew 3:47 (One of the parables of the Kingdom)
- <sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, <sup>50</sup> and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

# What Can Cause Apostasy?

- 1. Persecution – Matthew 24:9
- 2. False Teachers – deceive many II Tim. 4:4
  - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- 3. Temptation

# What Can Cause Apostasy?

- 4. Worldliness – For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life is not from the Father but is from the world. (1 John 2:16)
- 5. Neglect – Hebrews 3:12 “Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.”

# What Can Cause Apostasy?

- 6. Religion – The specific problem that the book of Hebrews is meant to address – leaving the old covenant for the more perfect way through Christ
  - Going back to a system of earning your way to God.