

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

## BOOK OF HEBREWS

### TERRIFYING (HEBREWS 10:26-31)

#### REJECTING CHURCH CAN LEAD TO REJECTING CHRIST

Continuing the thought from last week, the author alludes to the possibility of rejecting the truth of Christ if one stops attending worship services and fellowship with the Christian community

- In the church, we **hear the Word of God**, find **accountability**, pool **resources**, find **correction**, and receive **encouragement**

#### IGNORANT VERSUS DELIBERATE SINS

The OT ceremonies provided reconciliation for sins committed in ignorance, but not done deliberately.

Jesus came to forgive even sins done with the knowledge of right and wrong.

- As believers in Jesus, we have the assurance that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive" (1 John 1:9)

#### THIS IS NOT A PASS TO ABUSE GRACE!

Romans 6:1 says, "Should we continue to sin so grace can multiply? Absolutely not!" This means that God forgives rebellion, but we are not to remain in a lifestyle of sin.

- Willful sins can be forgiven, but many times we don't seek forgiveness, we justify our sins, or we use the banner of "God is love" to ignore our poor choices

#### PERSECUTION WAS TURNING SOME AWAY

Some of the recipients of Hebrews were turning from their faith because of persecution, but the author reminded them that a much worse fate is in store for those that "receive knowledge of the truth" and deliberately turn from it.

- If one abandons Christ they face "terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of the fire..."

#### THIS IS BECAUSE WE HAVE REJECTED SALVATION

Christ came not to condemn, but to save the world from condemnation (John 3:17).

- We are all falling into eternal chaos based on our individual sins and the mistakes of humanity as a whole. **It is Jesus who offers an escape from this fate, but if we reject His grace, there is no hope of avoiding hell.**

#### AN URGE TO SHOW OUR FAITH

The author could not evaluate the inward commitment of the readers, so he urged them to show their faith in their lifestyles. He encouraged them to endure the adversities and be committed to the commands of Christ.

- He wanted them to remember their lives before they had Jesus, and to know **the severity of going backward**

#### WE TALK ABOUT THE RIGIDNESS OF THE OT

Rejection of Mosaic Law could be punishable by death (Deuteronomy 17:6). The author says those that "trampled on the Son of God, regarded as profane the blood...insulted the Spirit of grace" have committed a much worse offense, and will receive a far greater punishment

- **At anytime we can be forgiven of our offenses, but we must be repentant**

#### TO "INSULT THE SPIRIT OF GRACE" IS ARROGANT

This is not referring to atheists, agnostics, or people of other faiths that have not had exposure to the gospel, this is addressing those that have heard the truth and have had a consciousness of His grace, but have willingly walked away

- **We're held accountable for knowledge we've received!** (Luke 12:48)

#### A TOPIC WE DON'T LIKE TO DISCUSS

The apostate who experiences God's judgment should know it will be a "terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"

- **To the one who knows right and wrong, it should fill us with dread to think of an eternity without Jesus. The author was fearful that the recipients of the Gospel had made light of its importance.**

#### ENDURANCE (HEBREWS 10:32-39)

##### "REMEMBER THE EARLIER DAYS..." (V32-22)

We are called to remember not just the time when God saved and changed us, but also the times He has delivered us from trials and temptations.

- These people had **refused to compromise** in the past and were encouraged to **hold onto their faith in the present turbulence.**

#### THE POWER IN COMMUNITY

"Sometimes you were publicly exposed... to afflictions, and other times you were companions of those treated that way" reaffirms the strength we have in the community of believers.

- They suffered because of their association with God and the church, but **they found it a privilege to share in the sufferings of others and for God.**

#### FACING HARDSHIPS HAD 2 GREAT COSTS

First, because they had sympathized with those in prison for their faith, they received public shame

- Second, the readers experienced the loss of their property through the government confiscating it

#### AND THEY FOUND JOY IN THIS?

They knew that they had better possessions in their relationship with Christ and the promise of eternity with Him. This is one thing no government or persecutor can ever take because they are eternal (Matthew 6:20)

- Can we make the same claim? **Do we "consider it joy" (James.1:2) to lose earthly things for heavenly things?**

#### "DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE" (V35)

Confidence in Christ gives the believer endurance through tough times. We receive "rewards" for our relationship with Jesus now and even greater rewards in eternity.

- **Endurance and staying power come through learning to trust God.** This comes from **prayer, study, and full submission to His ways.**

#### 2 THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE HAVE ENDURANCE

First, we will do the will of God. Second, we will receive the promises of God.

- **We are called to show the validity of our faith by the living out of our faith.** Our faith must be evident to the world around us through the Fruit of the Spirit and with the action of the Gifts of the Spirit (Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12)

#### HOLD ON, HE'S COMING (V37-38)

The words of Isaiah 26 and Habakkuk 2 are integrated into this passage to encourage us to hold firm in our circumstances because God's provision and help is on its way.

- Our perceived lack of action on God's part does not mean God is failing to keep His word. **The believer must trust in the timing and sovereignty of God.**

#### BUT, THOSE THAT WAIVER HAVE NO HOPE

The righteous live by faith, but to the one that "draws back," God finds "no pleasure in him." **This is not from a lack of grace on God's part, but a denial of His grace on ours.**

- The exact opposite is true of the believer that holds onto the faith and knowledge they've received. Those who "have faith" will "obtain life"

#### WE ARE BETTER THAN THIS

- The author concludes chapter 10 with strong encouragement: "But we are not those that draw back and are destroyed..."

#### TAKE HEART AND STEP UP

- What you have done and what has been done to you does not have to define you
- If you identify with Christ, you're an overcomer of the world. You're not a slave to fear, intoxicants, pleasures, expectations, culture, or the past
- You can not only make it, you can excel and be more than what you are now.