

THE DIRE WARNING OF HEBREWS 10:26-39

To this point in our study, we have focused our attention on the Superiority Of Christ. Without controversy, He is superior in every way and in every respect. The evidence is indisputable. Hebrews 10:22 – 39 takes a practical approach to the knowledge thus attained to this point. In a nutshell, the writer boldly states that we have a decision to make. On one hand we can believe what he has written and embrace Christ for who He is and all that He is. On the other hand, we can reject Christ for who He is and all that He is. It is a choice, a choice that all will have to make. He in glaring detail warns those who decide rejection with a stern warning – “He who despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace?”

- I. The Plea (Heb. 10:22) “Let us draw near with a true heart of full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
 - Faith is the key word. Do you believe what you’ve heard and read? If so, are you willing to move to the next stage, the stage of faith. Faith is not a mental assent to a fact. Faith is always accompanied by works, always!!!! It is one thing to believe that your car will get you to the supermarket. However, you can believe that and end up walking there. Faith is the action whereby we take what we believe and act upon the belief. It is getting in the car, turning on the key, pressing the accelerator pedal, and driving the vehicle to the market. So it is with faith in what we have heard and read. We can believe it all and go to hell believing (The devil believes and trembles). Faith is the act whereby the belief goes to the level of action. It is the place where the believing sinner goes to Christ and says, “I believe and I receive what I believe. It is now mine.”
 - The result of that action is a change in conscience. We are, at that point, no longer guilty and under the shadow and burden of sin. We are now washed with pure water and cleansed in every way. We are now new creatures, old things are passed away and all things are become new.
- II. The Profession (Heb. 10:23) “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering:”
 - Hold Fast – Gk. Ketecho – to hold tight, to possess. This indicates confidence. It also indicates taking possession of what is yours. It is one thing to possess something, but quite another thing to live in the fulness of what the possession brings to the table. There are countless examples of people who possessed something of great value and lived like paupers, never fully living in the fulness

of what they possessed. Holding fast our profession indicates living in the fulness of the promises that are part of the profession.

- Profession – Gk. Homologia – confession, profession, acknowledgment, to openly express commitment and allegiance. Homo – oneness, singleness. Logia – the word. Homologia is being at one with what is spoken. Your profession is more than just what you say you believe. It is embodied in what God says about what you believe. Homologia is you living in confidence in what God has spoken and acting upon what He has spoken. The age old question applies, “If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?”
- Without wavering – Gk. Aklines – unswerving, without wavering. The prefix of this word is A, which means NO. No wavering, No swerving. Paul expresses it with the admonition of “pressing toward the mark” or being “single minded.” It is a discipline of staying focused on who you are, Whose you are, what you are, and why you are. It is living in the reality of what the truth is. You are no longer who you were or what you were. You are now “made new”. Living in the newness of your profession and don’t be swayed by the lies of the wicked one.

III. The Promise – Hebrews 10:23 “For He is faithful that promised.” Gk. Epengellomai – to promise, to profess, to lay claim to.

- This is a plea from the writer to “lay claim to” what God has said.
- The key word in this passage is HE. A promise is no better than the one making the promise. In this case, the Promiser is God.
- The context of this passage is on our profession/salvation. Many question the ability of God to “keep that which I’ve committed unto Him against that day” when evil lurks and the evil one has his temporal victories.
- Always understand that your salvation is not built upon your promise to God to be faithful to the end. It is built upon God’s promise to us to be faithful to the end.
- “I will NEVER leave you nor forsake you is either true or not. Laying hold to this promise is a key point to living in victory and not defeat.
- “It is of the LORD’s mercy that we are not consumed. His mercies are new EVERY MORNING: Great is THY faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:22-23) The reason God’s mercies are new every morning is because we need mercy every day. This is a statement of the faithfulness of God despite the unfaithfulness of man. If God’s promise of NEW MERCY were not true, we would certainly be consumed.
- We can lose the JOY of our salvation (Psalms 51:12), but never our salvation. Our salvation is built upon the Promise of God that it is ETERNAL LIFE. If it can be lost, it is not eternal.

IV. The Provocation – (Hebrews 10:24 – 25) Barnes notes on the Bible explains Provoking in this manner – “To provoke unto love - We use the word "provoke" now in a somewhat different sense, as meaning to offend, to irritate, to incense; but its original meaning is to "arouse, to excite, to call into action," and it is used in this sense here.”

- Sometimes the Greek word indicates “sharp disagreement” (strong's). This is very true of the Christian experience, but what the writer is encouraging us toward is the understanding that our brothers and sisters – AND OURSELVES – do not yet have it all together, but despite the fact that we “haven’t arrived” into the fulness of God’s intent and promise, we are still brothers and sisters, and instead of the disagreements being the focus of our experience, love should prevail over all.
- Today, as in the early church, we need one another. We will need one another even more as the evil day approaches (v. 25). We can always find the excuse as to why we don’t want to go to church or fellowship “with hypocrites”. We might be able to eloquently argue our point. However, God gives us strong provocation to love, for “love covers a multitude of sin.”
- Our loving our fellow believers is not merit based. It is God commanded.
- The command is also to “not forsake the assembling together”. We are called to be faithful to “church”. There are many reasons for this, but the primary one is laid out in verse 25.
- “Exhort One Another” – Exhortation is the act of encouragement. The primary reason we “assemble together” is not for the purpose of singing or hearing a sermon – IT IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING AN ENCOURAGER, AND IN SOME CASES, BEING ENCOURAGED. This is vitally important to the health of the body of Christ, and vitally important to our own Spiritual vitality.
- DO IT!!!!!!!

V. The Passion Filled Warning (Hebrews 10:26)

- This is not a warning of losing one’s salvation, it is a passion filled warning to those who would seek salvation by any other means than through the sacrifice of Christ.
- The CONTEXT of these verses is that Christ is the final sacrifice for sin. There is no other sacrifice that will appease the justice of Almighty God.
- With that in mind, the writer is sending out a strong warning to anyone who would consider trying another method for salvation.
- Understand the recipients of this Book – The Hebrews/Jews. Their entire existence had been built around and dependent upon the Law and its demands. One of the demands of the law, the way it had always been, was animal

sacrifices. The writer is telling the readers/hearers that the old way is being replaced with a “new and living way.”

- The “willful sin” that is spoken of in verse 26 is the rejection of this new and living way. They have now “received the knowledge of the truth.” There will be “no excuse” at this point. If they disregard the “once, for all, sacrifice of Christ”, there will be no other sacrifice sufficient for sin.
- “You’ve been warned. Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself for your sins is the only way to salvation. If you willingly and willfully reject this, there is not other way, no other sacrifice for sins. It is either Jesus or judgment.” (Dan’s paraphrase)

VI. The Powerful Warning (Hebrews 10:27-31)

- Judgment, terrible judgment, awaits those who reject.
- It is a “certain looking for of judgment and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries.” The adversaries spoken of here are those who reject Christ as their “sacrifice for sin.”
- Judgment for the unbeliever/unreceiver is “Certain.”
- The judgment warning is “fiery indignation which shall devour”. This is speaking of hell. Those hearing/reading the book of Hebrews are here given a stern warning. HELL AWAITS THOSE WHO REJECT.
- The contrast the writer uses is the judgment under the law of Moses. In the law of Moses, there was much written about judgment. The writer eludes to this in verse 28-29. “If judgment was extreme and certain under Moses’ Law, that is nothing compared to the judgment that will fall upon those who reject Christ.” (Dan’s paraphrase).
- Rejection of Christ’s Sacrifice is:
 - A. Trodding upon Christ as if He and His work mean nothing.
 - B. Counting His blood as an “unholy thing”.
 - C. Saying that the very thing that sets Christ apart (wherewith He was sanctified) is meaningless
 - D. Despising the work of the Holy Spirit. (The primary role of the Holy Spirit in the world is drawing men/women to Christ. When we reject Christ, “we are doing despite to the Spirit of Grace” by rejecting His work).
- Vengeance belongs to the LORD. He is the only one who has that right and position. He, as Judge over all the earth, holds the key to Divine vengeance and judgment. He withholds it to the end, but to understand His vengeance, read Revelation 20:11-15 which speaks of the final Great White Throne of Judgment. Here, you will read of the final state and estate of those who reject Christ. It is the Lake of Fire. It is Without Mercy. It is Eternal. It is Final.

- It is, indeed, “a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.” Receive Christ and you won’t. Reject Christ and you will. That’s the Powerful Warning.

VII. The Patience (Hebrews 10:32-39) – the work is not finished: patiently wait for it.

- The writer, at this point, tells the reader/hearer to be patient. He uses several illustrations in doing so.
- He uses their past experiences to encourage them toward patience. “Look at where you’ve been and what you’ve already endured. Don’t give up now, no matter how dark it gets before the light shines. It will shine again. God promised.” Remember, during this time of history, those in the church were suffering greatly at the hands of Rome.
- He uses his present experience to encourage them toward patience. “You’ve seen me in bondage. You’ve stood with me and for me in this time. You’ve done it with great joy. I’ve not asked for relief but rejoice greatly in what you’ve done for me. Use that as an example of patience.”
- Stand firm in your confidence, knowing that there is a great reward awaiting the children of God.
- You will receive the Promise. That is a promise.
- Christ is coming. When the time is right, He will not delay. Be patient as you wait upon His coming.
- My confidence in you is that “you are not of them that fall away.” You are the children of your Father. You have His likeness and His Spirit is in you. I believe in you. I believe in His work in and through you. All of you who are followers of Christ, you will endure to the end. You can bank on it.