

## Hebrews Chapter 10C

After studying this book of Hebrews for almost a year, I have come to the conclusion that this book is a work of sheer brilliance. Inspired by the Holy Spirit the author methodically reveals the divine person and saving work of Jesus Christ from the very first verse.

- Like an Olympic sprinter, as soon as the starter's gun sounds the revelation of Christ just leaps from the page and never looks back:

Hebrews 1:2 **in these last days he (God) has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**

3 **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

- Through Jesus Christ we clearly see the shining forth, the clear display of God's divine attributes. His power, majesty, authority and mercy, justice and love.
- It is abundantly clear from the very first page of the book that God's purpose is to purify men and women from all of their sins.
- Then in every succeeding chapter the author expounds on the New Covenant in Christ's blood building precept upon precept, until we reach the pinnacle Ch 10.

In my introduction to this book I mentioned that the Author describes his writing as a word of exhortation. (*We find that in Hebrews 13:22*)

To refresh your memory:

- A word of exhortation is a word of admonition a word of caution, a word of warning, or a word of encouragement.
- I taught that the original word translated exhortation actually envisions the act of calling someone to your side in order to warn or to admonish them.

We experienced our first word of warning when we read chapter 2.

After portraying Jesus as **“the radiance of the glory of God, the exact imprint of His nature,”** after telling us that Jesus is **“Better than Angels”** the author, very subtly and yet powerfully gave his first word of exhortation.

- He warned us to pay close attention to what we have heard so that we do not drift away from it.
- The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches can lure us away from the simplicity of the Gospel. (That's why *we sing “prone to wonder, Lord I feel it”*)
- Chapter 3 we considered the words, **“Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the Rebellion.”** (*don't be like unbelieving Israel!*)

When we studied chapter six I compared these warning passages to the various road signs we encounter as we drive along the highway.

- I shared with you my experience of traveling in Maine, and the unique signs that I found on their roads, “Caution Frost Heaves, Elk Crossing, bridge freezes before road”
- Remember I told you that the warning passages in the book of Hebrews function much like those Cautionary Road Signs?
  - They are installed by the state in order to assure our safe passage as we travel to our appointed destination.

The average driver doesn't look at the caution signs along the road and say, “Oh No! I don't think I am going to make it!” I'll never get back home there are Elk here

- Road signs are not designed to create fear or doubt in the mind of the driver, they are graciously provided to promote our safety.

In the same way, the warning signs here in the book of Hebrews serve as a means of grace in order to assure safe passage to our eternal destination.

- I would like you to look at the book of Hebrews in THIS WAY:
- The Doctrinal Statements communicating this great salvation that God has accomplished in Jesus Christ are written to provide the assurance of faith to all who believe. They tell us what God has graciously accomplished on our behalf
- The warning passages address us in our present state; (Living. Here and now in the flesh) and they encourage our endurance.

The truth about the finished work of Christ provides the assurance of faith.

The warnings exhort us for the endurance of faith.

Both of these things are critical to our perseverance in the faith.

- Consider This Example:

As we raise our children to be responsible citizens and followers of Christ:

- They need the assurance of our love and the firm guidance of our discipline. They need both promises and warnings in order to stay in the right path.

It is important for us to remember that the warning passage here in Hebrews 10 comes right on the heels of the most clear description of the High Priestly work of Christ in the entire book. Let's take one more look at the context.

Hebrews 10:12 **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,**

14 **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

17 **then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."**

18 **Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.**

- After assuring us of Christ's magnificent work on our behalf the author challenges us to ACT on what we believe:

SINCE we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus

SINCE we have a great Priest over the house of God

Let us draw near to God with a true heart and full assurance of faith

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful!

Let us stir up one another to love and good works,

- Now that we are cruising along in our faith, confident in the work of Christ, assured of our access to the Father, living with Christ as the anchor of our hope, we suddenly encounter another Road Sign, another caution, another warning.
- Remember road signs don't stop your progress they are designed to keep you SAFE, here in Ch. 10 they push us toward faith and endurance.

Our outline as we study verses 26 – 31 this morning is this:

1. Warning Sign is Erected 26-27
2. Warning Sign is Illuminated 28-29
3. Warning Sign is Rooted 30-31 (rooted in the very character of God)

Warning Sign is Erected – Vs 26-27

Hebrews 10: 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

- The FIRST word in the sentence, in the original text is the word Deliberately. Sometimes translated willfully.
  - FYI in Greek Literature the first position in a sentence is known as the Emphatic position. It is the most important word in the mind of the writer.
- Here in Verse 26 the first word is “Deliberately”
- The idea is this, If we intentionally, deliberately, willfully, purposefully continue in, go on, persist in SIN (*after receiving the knowledge of the truth*) there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.
- Our modern translations take into consideration the verb tense (present tense) which describes a continual, habitual lifestyle or persistence in sin that elicits the judgment of God.

In the early days of the church there was a legalistic movement known as the Novatianists. They actually took this verse to mean that any sin committed after baptism would cause a person to be irrevocably lost.

- Under that teaching many believers waited to be baptized until they were on their death bed.

- Not only would that have been a Logistical Nightmare for pastors, it was an obvious misrepresentation of the verse.
- The Apostle John provides a solid balance:

1 John 1:10 **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

2:1 **My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

2 **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

- As I said before, the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ has delivered us from the penalty of sin, it has broken the power of sin BUT it has not yet released us from the presence of sin.
- We will continue to wrestle with sin until the day when we leave this flesh behind and put on our glorified bodies.
- I believe the author of Hebrews is describing a particular sin that is both deliberate and continual. (The context will help us identify the sin, as we study)

The wording that is used in this warning is actually quite disturbing. The warning is aimed at those who have received the knowledge of the truth.

- (Epignosis) refers to a full and clear knowledge of the truth (*That word is generally used to describe a true believer*)
- AND yet the persistent lifestyle of sin and the rejection of this knowledge obviously describes a person who is unbelieving.
- How can we reckon these two things? (*by going back to the words of Jesus*)

Looking at the parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13, Mark 4)

Some of the seed (the Word of God) fell among the rocks, and some among the thorns, while there was an initial reception of the seed it never grew to produce any fruit. Such fruitless vegetation is only fit to kindle a fire.

There is no question as to the destiny of this persistent sinner: The writer explains:

**there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.**

- Since the ONLY effectual substitutionary atonement for sin is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.
- And since this individual has rejected the cleansing that comes through the cross All that remains is **a fearful (terrifying) expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.**

**FURY OF FIRE** – speaks of God’s righteous judgment which is visited upon the wicked. The idea is this: in God’s zeal for his holy name he burns like a consuming fire toward his enemies. Isaiah 28:11, Zeph 1:18

- So it is that those who reject the clear revelation of the Gospel and persist in willful rebellion against God are considered the enemies of God and will be consumed in His righteous judgment.

The warning sign is posted habitual, deliberate, rebellion against the revealed Word of God will lead to eternal destruction.

- NOW the author will shine a light on the warning bringing clarity to the sin that is deserving of destruction:

## 2 Warning is illuminated 28-29

Because this book is written to Hebrew People who were familiar with the Old Covenant and because some of them were counting the cost of following Jesus and were contemplating a return to the formalities and Rituals of the O.T. the author strengthens his warning using an O.T. example.

Hebrews 10: 28 *Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.* 29 *How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?*

- The seriousness of this warning is now supported by an argument from the lesser to the greater.
- This argument actually helps to dispel a common misunderstanding.
- Many people are of the opinion that the image of God in the O. T. is one of wrath and judgment BUT the image of God in the N.T. is one of mercy and grace.
  - But we need to remember “The three persons of the Godhead, are one God, the same in substance, equal in power, glory and purpose.”
  - There is no Good cop bad Cop in the trinity. There is one God He is just
- The argument from the lesser to the greater is this:

The judgment of God meted out on those who rejected the Old Covenant involved capital punishment, as severe as that punishment was it served as a shadow of the judgment that will be measured out on those who trample underfoot the Son of God.

- If you think the judgment of God was tough in the O.T. you need to take another look at the image of Christ in the N.T. book of Revelation.

Revelation 19: 11 *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.*

12 *His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.* 13 *He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.*

- Back to Hebrews

Verses 28-29 actually help us understand the type of sin that was described in Verses 26 - 27 that deliberate and persistent sin of which I spoke of earlier.

- It is the willful, continual and contemptuous repudiation of Jesus Christ in the life of an individual after the Gospel of J.C. has been clearly revealed and understood.
- Listen to how God describes those who hear the good news and turn away from it: They are those WHO:

### 1. Trample underfoot the Son of God.

This involves the scornful rejection of Jesus Christ, it is to regard him as worthless.

- Think about it: what do you trample under your foot? A cigarette butt? Empty soda can? A Bug? Trash? You tread on them because they hold no value they are useless.
- This is a warning against devaluing the person of Jesus Christ. The eternal Son of God, the creator of all things, the judge of all men.

### 2 How much worse punishment profaned the blood of the covenant

With this phrase we move from the person of Christ TO the WORK of Christ.

- This is a warning to anyone who would consider the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice of Christ as common, nothing more than the death of any other man viewing it as the death of a common criminal.
- This was the way that the Sanhedrin viewed the death of Christ.
- Many people in our own generation view the death of Jesus in this way. God is outraged by this.

### 3 How much worse punishment outraged the Spirit of grace

This is a warning against insulting, injuring, offending the Spirit of Grace.

- It is the Spirit of God who by grace opens the eyes of blind sinners to see the sufficiency of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- But, in an act of sinful defiance these deliberately shut their eyes and turn their backs on the revelation of God that comes by the Spirit of Grace.

I believe this is referring to the work of the Spirit that was spoken of by the prophet Zechariah.

Zec. 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

OK the Warning sign has been erected, the sign has been illuminated now we see the foundation on which the warning is established:

- 3 The warning is rooted in founded upon the very character of God.

Hebrews 10: 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- For we know HIM! The truth of this warning is based upon the character of the one who spoke it. It is founded upon the very character of God.
- The warning comes from one who is omniscient, one who cannot lie, one who does not change, one who is just and holy in all of his ways, it comes from God himself.
- And his words are not obscure, His warnings are not hidden, they have been written in a book in plain language for us to read. The original readers of this letter should have known this.
- The Author refers his readers back to Deuteronomy Chapter 32.

In Deuteronomy 32:35, Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.'

- Vengeance belongs to God alone, for God alone is perfectly righteous and wholly just. His judgments are based upon absolute truth.
- He weighs the motives and He knows the secretes of the heart.
- He has revealed his mercy and his unmerited favor to men in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If we reject that Gospel we do so to our own demise.

As we close let me ask you this:

What is the most precious thing in the eyes of God the Father?

- Is it not Christ the Son?

What is the most benevolent act of love ever recorded in the annals of history?

- Is it not the act of a Father who loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life?

With these things in mind what do you think God will do with the man, the woman, the young person the persistent rebel who:

- Treats with contempt and tramples underfoot the Blessed Son of God as if he were a worthless piece of garbage to be cast aside and tread underfoot.

How do you think the one who graciously gave his pure and spotless Son to suffer the senseless abuse of men and bear the full fury of God's wrath will deal with

- Those who malign His Son and Spurn His sacrifice as the fitting demise of a common criminal.

What will the judge of all men do in his righteous judgment to those who:

- Insult, spurn and outrage the Spirit of Grace who was sent to draw them with cords of love to repentance and faith.

He will cast them into the Lake of Fire that burns with Sulfur where they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever in that place where the worm does not die.

Only A fool would ignore the warning passages of this book of Hebrews thinking that the severity of the warnings apply to other people but certainly not to themselves.

These warnings are not merely a preacher's exaggerations that are written down to make sure that you behave. They are real, they are true and they are eternal.

Listen again to these powerful words of warning: **It is a fearful ( a terrifying) thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

- Every time you hear the clear presentation of the Gospel and refuse to yield your heart to Jesus Christ... You heap up wrath for the day of judgment.
- Why not repent of your sin and believe on the Lord Jesus today?