

Hebrews 10:26-39 The Consequence of Rebellion, Part 2

- Last time we were together in HEBREWS 10:26-39 we focused our time upon laying a foundation for understanding
- This passage in HEBREWS 10 is one of the more ambiguous and troubling in the whole of the Bible
 - One of those passages that stretches our comprehension, challenges our assumptions, and actively compels action
- And we spent last time establishing two primary truths
 - FIRST, that the simplicity and clarity of the whole NT compels us to believe that once a person has accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ by grace through faith
 - He is safe-kept in grace
 - He receives eternal life, which is ~~only eternal if in fact he obtains~~ eternal life
 - And in that ~~he did nothing, and could do nothing, to qualify himself for or obtain this gift;~~
 - he certainly cannot do anything to disqualify himself for it after the fact
 - So we established what we in theology call the doctrine of eternal security
 - SECOND, we contemplated the likelihood that Paul's warning and exhortation here in HEBREWS 10 does ~~not necessarily stand alone~~
 - But rather functions as a heightened elaboration upon the other two warnings that we have already considered in the book already, found in HEBREWS 2:1-4 and HEBREWS 4:1-11 →

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- And so we would fully expect to be able to take the conclusions and lessons which have guided us in those two warnings and use them to understand more fully this third warning
- And we are attempting to cover a reasonable amount of ground today
 - But because the text is somewhat tricky, it is going to take some time to walk through it
 - So let's not beat around the bush, and instead let's dive right in
- And as with last time, let's again begin by going back a bit in our context
→

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:19-27

(19) Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (21) And having an high priest over the house of God; (22) Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance

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- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:19-27

of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking

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Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:19-27

the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain

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- CONTINUE →

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Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:19-27

fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-27

(26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- READ
- The context for Paul's warning, following his exhortation unto obedience, is those who would reject the call upon our lives to live in a manner that is set apart by drawing near, holding fast, and provoking one another
- So he says "if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin"
 - Within the context of this passage the "sinning willfully" of which Paul speaks is related directly to the commands that have come before
 - So that to "sin willfully" here is to reject the exhortation to
 - Draw near with a true heart
 - To hold fast the profession of our faith
 - And to provoke one another to love and good works through assembling together regularly
- And if we filter this concept of sinning willfully through our other warnings
 - What we find Paul doing here is defining for us the kind of unbelief of which he has been warning us about since CHAPTER 2
 - To "let these things slip" in CHAPTER 2 and to "come short" of Christ promise of rest in CHAPTER 4 is to sin willfully against the knowledge of the truth by failing to
 - Drawn nigh
 - Hold fast our profession
 - And provoke one another through assembling together →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-27

(26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- And if we hold fast to this rebellion though we know what is right
 - Paul says
 - There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins
 - But only a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries
- Now remember to filter what you are reading through what you already know, both of salvation, and of the context of HEBREWS thus far
 - It would take something very clear and definitive to override Paul's other teachings regarding eternal security - we would need to have something quite plain to do that
 - But that is on the table if there is no other interpretive option...only there is most certainly another interpretive option
- And that option is even in this very chapter of Scripture
 - If we work our way back to the beginning of this chapter we find an argument being concluded which contrasts the repetitive nature of sacrifices under the law to the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ
- So we READ →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:1-13

(1) For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. (2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:1-13

purged should have had no more conscience of sins. (3) But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. (4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (5) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:1-13

offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (6) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. (7) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (8) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings

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- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:1-13

and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; (9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:1-13

Christ once for all. (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

- READ
- OK, so I read these verses so that you can see the contrast
 - Perpetual sacrifices under the law which gave remembrance of sin every year because it was not possible that they should take away sin
 - As compared to the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ
 - By which remembrance of sin is put away forever
 - And has TAKEN AWAY sin, purging our conscience from dead works
- And last week in our time considering the nature of salvation we saw descriptions of what happens when we receive that truth
 - We are made a new creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - We are sealed unto the day of redemption – Ephesians 4:30
- We enter into a life of grace, and we live in that grace
 - Freed from the anchor of sin
 - Freed from the guilt of sin
 - Raised to walk in newness of life
- And in that old things are passed away and all things are become new
 - While most certainly the earthly consequences for our past choices might linger on
 - There is a clean break from that old man before the throne of grace
 - God does not hold the believing man accountable for the sins of his unbelieving life
 - For no man could stand before God if he was held to account for us things →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-27

(26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- But what if we, having received this truth for ourselves,
 - Having experienced that redemption through Christ
 - Having been set free from the bondage of our sin and the shame and guilt of a life lived in the darkness of our own deceived hearts
 - What if I regress in grace, so that I place ourselves back unto the yoke of a legal way of thinking, where I have to earn my favor with God through actions
 - What if I regress in grace, and so continue in sin that grace may abound
- If I do this thing, because Christ's sacrifice was once-for-all, and I have already placed myself under that grace
 - I can no longer count on being born-again-again to clean the slate
- Now, once again follow me here
 - Nothing Paul is saying is speaking about whether or not a person is going to heaven
 - Remember the context of the chapter – perpetual sacrifices to purge the flesh vs. a once-for-all cleansing of the heart
 - And if after my heart is cleansed I willfully taint it again
 - Then while there is most certainly forgiveness to be found with the LORD
 - There is no “second sacrifice”
 - That sin is mine to own
 - In the words of 1 CORINTHIANS 3 that sin becomes wood, hay, and stubble before the throne
- That cannot be said of my sin prior to salvation, for it all rests under the cross →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-27

(26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- I will not answer on the day of judgment for sins committed prior to salvation
 - But once I am saved, as 1 CORINTHIANS 3 teaches, I begin to store up reward and loss before the throne
- And I must answer to God for that
- If I, after salvation, choose to reject the concepts of grace and embrace the law once again
 - Or choose to fall head first into the abuse of grace for the satisfaction of the flesh
- There is always forgiveness if down the road you renew yourself unto repentance
 - But that sin will stay on the record as wood, hay, and stubble
 - And on the day of judgment and fiery indignation you will answer for that sin
 - Saved, yet so as by fire
- And this is the warning here
- So Paul continues →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:28-31

(28) He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: (29) 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

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:28-31

sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- READ
- Notice Paul is effectively making the same argument here that he made in CHAPTER 2
- That if the rejection of the law of Moses, for those of Israel who bound themselves to that covenant, when testified unto before two or three witnesses, brought death without mercy
 - How much sorer punishment will we who have entered into the covenant of Christ through His blood be thought worthy if we tread under foot the grace purchased through Christ
 - If I count the blood of Christ's covenant, whereby I was sanctified, to be an unholy thing that thus despise my grace
- Now again, this sounds very "lose your salvation"-y
 - And absent the rest of the NT we might conclude this
 - And absent the immediate context we might be tempted to change our understanding of the rest of the NT
 - But in the context of Hebrews we find that message to be about living in the power of the faith into which we have been ushered
 - Living in the rest purchased for us, rather than wandering in the wilderness of sinful choices
 - Though we have already been brought out of the sin-slavery of Egypt
- And in that this is the argument, and this is the context
 - We re-frame our mindset away from the idea that Paul is warning us about the lake of fire
 - And instead we find standing before us something else →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:28-31

sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- Something which, for we who are in Christ, might in fact be even more startling, and more intimidating
- What if, when God said in DEUTERONOMY 32 “vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the LORD”
 - He was not just talking about judging the unbeliever...
 - ...what if he was talking about his own people
 - So that we read in DEUTERONOMY 32:35 →
- What if, in the context of judgment, it must first begin at the house of God?
-

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Deuteronomy 32:35

To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

- READ
- And we say to that "Amen"
 - Go get 'em God!
 - Vengeance is yours -----AVENGE MEEEEEEEE!-----
- And then you read the next verse and it says →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Deuteronomy 32:36

For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

- READ
- Wait a minute Wait a minute Wait a minute Wait a minute
- So you mean that when God said “vengeance is mine, I will repay”
 - He wasn’t just speaking about the heathen
 - In fact in context he wasn’t speaking about the heathen at all
 - He was exhorting his people to obedience because there is coming a day when God will judge THEM
- And even when Paul speaks of this idea of not avenging yourself in ROMANS 12...
 - That verse in context happens to be toward the end of teaching about how believers should interact with one another
- So that the primary focus of this promise
 - Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the LORD has always been a promise
 - Not to judge the heathen...
 - ...but to judge God’s own people

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:28-31

sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (31) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- What if 1 PETER 4:17 is correct when he tells the church that the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God?
- So that when you should be afraid to flippantly step into a context of sin as one who has been sanctified of grace
 - Because God is going to judge you for that sin
 - And though you may repent, and re-align, and submit
 - Which you should
 - There is no second sacrifice for those sins
 - They are on the record now
 - You will answer
 - The fiery indignation of God will fall upon your works on the day of judgment
 - And if will be fearful
 - Because it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God
- And this should both compel us and constrain us to renew in our hearts our passion
 - To remember our first love
 - And this is what Paul says next →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:32-35

(32) But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; (33) Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. (34) For ye had

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:32-35

compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. (35) Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

- READ
- Do you remember those first days after your salvation? Paul asks
- To this group of Hebrew believers Paul describes those early days after the Spirit illumined their hearts to the truth
 - They endured great afflictions
 - They were reproached and afflicted
 - They were mocked, and abused, and shamed for their testimony for Christ
 - And yet they lived and spoke with boldness
 - Though Paul was an outcast for his faith, yet they loved him, they gave willingly to his needs
 - They sacrificed for him as he did for them
 - All because in that state of zeal and love they knew that there was greater reward in heaven for their sacrifices on earth
- And Paul exhorts them: don't give that up
 - Don't cast that away
 - Renew your love, renew your passion
 - Reinvigorate your joy, your boldness, your confidence
- Don't just settle into your Christian life, content with routines of piety while the embers of your heart
 - Which was once aflame with love and desire
 - Fade into coldness, apathy, and then eventually and inevitably back into the sin from which you have been set free
- And let me say this →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:32-35

compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. (35) Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

- We have many 2nd and 3rd generation Christians among us who were saved as children
- I remember the vigor and love of the early days of faith which manifest in my children's lives...but they likely will not
- All three of my believing children so far have been saved at the age of 5, as I and my wife were as well
 - This is something that they will struggle to remember in the same way I do
 - When I think back to my time of zeal, it was after a personal renewal and new found dedication when I was 19 years old
 - And before that there were times of exciting, but they were fleeting
- And this is unfortunate
 - And the way to avoid this, parents, is NOT to avoid leading your children to the LORD until such time as they can remember this initial zeal and love
 - But rather to foster a lifestyle whereby that initial zeal and love remains
 - In other words, the way to avoid this is for YOU to remember your former zeal, to re-invigorate the fire in your own heart, and then let that fire spread to your believing children
- And that is the call
 - A call to patient, steadfast, determined obedience and love for the LORD
 - So that Paul says in VERSES 36-39 →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:36-39

(36) For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. (37) For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. (38) Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul

- READ
- CONTINUE →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:36-39

shall have no pleasure in him. (39) But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- READ
- Ye have need of patience...not the idea of waiting for your reward to come
 - But the idea of enduring for your future reward
- They which run in a race run all, Paul says in 1 CORINTHIANS 9:24, but one receives the prize
- If you are going to finish the race, you must have endurance
- Because the rewards which God has promised are there for you and I
 - But they are only for those who endure until the end
- Remember, I'm not speaking about salvation
 - Salvation is by grace alone, and as ROMANS 11:6 says so plainly →

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Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Romans 11:6

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

- READ →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:36-39

shall have no pleasure in him. (39) But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- But if you want the promised rewards
 - Those rewards demand that you put in the work
- And believe Paul when he says that you REALLY want the rewards
 - FIRST, because if you turn back, what awaits you is a day of fearful judgment unlike anything you could possibly imagine
 - And SECOND, because as 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 says →

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Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

- READ →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:36-39

shall have no pleasure in him. (39) But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

- And for we who are in Christ, we know this to be true
- You know that joy of following Christ
- You remember the promise of reward which compelled you to forsake all and follow Him
- Reinvigorate that love
- Rekindle that fire
- Because, as Paul said in 1 CORINTHIANS, and as we'll consider throughout HEBREWS 11, the rewards are beyond worth it
 - They are SO worth it
 - That he writes in ROMANS 8:18 →

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

Romans 8:18

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- READ
- And if you are a believer, there was a time where you knew this to be true
- And if as a believer you don't know this to be true any longer, you are in a fearful place
 - And you need to repent and return
 - Because not only are the promises of God worth it all
 - But we are reminded that if you sin willfully after coming to a knowledge of the truth
 - There remains no more sacrifice for sins
 - But only fearful and fiery judgment before the throne
- Saved, yes
 - But as Paul describes it in 1 CORINTHIANS 3:15

Understand Hebrews 10:26-31

1 Corinthians 3:15

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

- READ
- You don't want to be saved yet so as by fire
- You want to be saved into all the glorious promises of Christ
- So be faithful, Christian
- Endure, that after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise