

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS  
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST  
**A TERRIFYING THING**  
Hebrews 10:26-39

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ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 174 (NT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

## A. Today's Text

### 1. A reminder of how God once punished those who rejected the law of Moses (10:26-28).

Hebrews 10:26-39, NASB95 - <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.

#### A. What does “go on sinning willfully...” mean?

*Those **believers** who **neglect** the commands in 10:22-25!*

Instead of “drawing near” to God, we **drift away**.

Instead of “holding on” to our confession, we **neglect it**.

Instead of “meeting together,” we **forsake the community of faith**.

Instead of proclaiming the “**knowledge of truth**” that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, we **devalue it**.

#### B. What does “there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” mean?

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish believers who were being pulled back to temple worship and the sacrificial system. God is saying, “Hebrews, why would you go back to the sacrificial system that doesn’t exist

anymore?” Also, under the Old Covenant, there were no sacrifices for deliberate and willful sins (Ex. 21:12-14; Num. 15:27-31; Ps. 51). The warning is this: If you return to the temple to offer sacrifices for your sins, you are missing the point totally because the price was paid completely when Jesus died in your place.

#### C. God is a God of grace and judgment.

“Terrifying expectation of judgment...fury of fire.” (v. 27).

#### D. Who is the “we” in this passage?

“We” is addressed to the Hebrews who had come to Christ. Pastor Joe believes Hebrews 10 addresses those who have genuinely received eternal salvation by grace through faith, but who, through ongoing, deliberate sin, entered a state of sin from which there is no possibility of return. As such, they face temporal judgment and loss of heavenly reward, but not the loss of eternal life. [NOTE: (1) We don’t know and we can’t really know who is saved. Only God knows. (2) Apostasy is the *permanent rejection of the Gospel*.]

### 2. A reminder of how God will punish those who reject the Lamb of God (10:29-31).

<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 [a real believer] 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 [Ez. 34; Deut. 20; Rom. 9:6].” <sup>31</sup> It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

*Those **unbelievers** who **reject** the commands in 10:22-25!*

Apostasy has two major characteristics: knowledge of the truth of the gospel and willful rejection of it. - Dr. J. MacArthur

#### A. Contempt for Christ—they trampled...the Son of God.

#### B. Contempt for Christ’s Sacrifice—regarded as unclean...blood.

#### C. Contempt for the Holy Spirit—insulted the Spirit of grace.

**I**t is a terrible thing to fall into the nail-pierced hands of the living God if we fall into them with any sacrifice of our own, suggesting that His sacrifice was not enough—that is a gospel that will not save but will incur God’s wrath. - Pastor Joe