

# Soteriology

(The Truth About Salvation)

**Craig Campesi and Peter LaRock**

**Week 10**

# Last Week

**We looked at**

- **The Sheep and Goats Judgment**
- **Two passages that discuss baptism in Acts and 1 Peter**
- **Some passages from the Epistle of James**
- **We are still trying to examine the different kinds of salvation that we find in the NT – Eternal life, salvation at the Judgment seat of Christ, and a life well lived and rewarded**

# This Week

## **This week, we will examine:**

- **Hebrews – Warning Passages relayed to Salvation**
  1. **Heb 2.1-4, How shall we ESCAPE?**
  2. **Heb 3.7-4.13, Entering His REST**
  3. **Heb 6.1-8, If they FALL AWAY**
  4. **Heb 10.26-39, The WILLFUL SIN**
  5. **Heb 12.25-29, HOLINESS to see the Lord**

# To Whom Was Hebrews Written?

- It was written **mainly** to **Hebrew Christians** (perhaps second-generation Christians, 2:3)
  - who may have been considering a return to Judaism,
  - immaturity, stemming from a lack of understanding of Biblical truths.
  - strong possibility that **professing Christians** (not actual believers) are addressed.
- Jewish Christians (or professing) were probably undergoing fierce persecution, socially and physically, both from Jews and from Romans.

## *4 Views on the Warning Passages*

- 1. Christians who lose their salvation**
- 2. Professing “believers” who abandon their profession**
- 3. Hypothetical situation for genuine believers who abandon their faith**
- 4. Christians who are in danger of willfully rejecting Christ by returning to the safe haven of Judaism**

# Purpose & Message

- To present the sufficiency of faith in Christ and the superiority of Christ to all things.
- To warn true believers and those professing to be believers of the danger of *returning* to Judaism (old way).

## Key Verse, 1:3

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

How shall we escape?

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Hebrews 2:1-4



# HEBREWS 2:1–4

## HEBREWS

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

- What are they "escaping from"?
- What is the just Retribution?
- God's Judgements?
  - Fire
  - Hell
  - Rewards

# Warning #1

2:1–18

The danger of the neglect of greater revelation



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who depart from the faith or from professing the faith will not escape the judgment of hell.
- B Truth Interpretation: Those who depart from the faith will not escape God's disciplinary judgment.

# Verbs for Spiritual Drifting in Hebrews

2:1	Drift away from belief (like a ship)	παραρρέω	aor. act. subjunc.	(pararreo)
3:12	Turn away, desert, abandon	ἀφίστημι	aor. act. inf.	(aphistemi)
4:1	Fall behind/short	ὑστερέω	perf. act. inf.	(hystereo)
6:6	Fall aside, commit apostasy	παραπίπτω	aor. act. ptc.	(parapipto)
10:35	Throw away/off	ἀποβάλλω	aor. act. impv.	(apoballo)
12:25	Turn away, desert, abandon	ἀποστρέφω	aor. act. subjunc.	(apostrepho)
13:9	Carried away (by the wind), mislead	παραφέρω	pres. mid. impv.	(paraphero)

# Entering His REST

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Hebrews 3:7-4:13

## HEBREWS 3:18–19

## HEBREWS

And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

- What is “His Rest”?
  - Sabbath Rest
  - Land Rest
  - Salvation Rest
  - Ecological Rest



# Warning #2

3:7–4:13

The danger of unbelief: to enter the rest by faith



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who disobey do not believe and do not hold fast to their confession of faith in Christ, so they will not go to heaven.
- B Truth Interpretation: Those who disobey do not believe and do not hold fast to their confession of faith in Christ, so they will not experience God's reward of rest.

## HEBREWS 3:12–14

## HEBREWS

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

# Inserted Warning, 3:12–14

- The departure is from “the living God.” The writer, in other words, is not simply looking at an unworthy walk, but a renunciation of his profession.
- In summary, the warning is against some individual professors who were in danger of apostatizing, that is, of renouncing Christ to lapse back into Judaism.

# Inserted Warning, 3:12–14

- The warning explains v. 13. Believers encourage themselves and especially any individual who was wavering.
- What is meant by “Today”? It is the present time of opportunity to trust in the message. It is important to notice that at Kadesh-Barnea *there was no tomorrow*. When Israel attempted to reverse its decision the very next day. It was too late (*Numbers 14:40-45*).

# Inserted Warning, 3:12–14

- The stress in v. 13 is on the failure of certain individuals in the group (*me-not plus, tis-anyone*). The entire body of professing believers was NOT in danger, only certain ones.
- Verse 14 explains the need for the warning. Principle: steadfast, stable faith is a mark of election/salvation (Heb 4:2). The concept of endurance (holding firm) being conditional is not only found in Hebrews 3:6 and here, but also in such passages as Col. 1:23; 1 Jn. 2:19; Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23; Luke 8:13.

# Hebrews 3:15–19

- 3:15, “Today,” once again stresses the present time of opportunity.
- Three reasons for the need of endurance of faith in vv 16–18 (for both believer & unbeliever)
  - A beginning does not guarantee success (v. 16)
  - Unbelief angers God (v. 17)
  - Disobedience results in judgment (v. 18)

# Hebrews 4

3:19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that **none of you** be found to have **fallen short** of it.



# Hebrews 4

4:2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

**This is a key verse**

# God's rest offered to humankind

God's rest by discontinuing the week's work at creation. We share His rest through grace and by faith in His Son. This also refers to the rest of eternity and eternal rewards once our work is done.

## Sabbath Rest

Sharing in God's rest by discontinuing the wanderings and wars. This is generally the "rest" that the Exodus generation rejected. This will be fulfilled to believing Jews in the Millennium.

## Land Rest

The spiritual rest that all believers experience at the point of faith in Christ and throughout eternity.

## Salvation Rest

The "rest" of all believers in the millennial kingdom with Jesus Christ as King of Kings ruling His people on David's throne.

## Eschatological Rest

## Ways in which God's rest is shared by believers

What does God's rest from His creative work imply?

That He was tired and out of breath? No!

Instead it suggests:

- (a) **completion**: the task was finished;
- (b) **satisfaction**: the task was done well;
- (c) **possession**: the finished work was His;
- (d) **peace**: no more work was necessary.

Each of the four aspects of God's rest which are shared by man include those same four elements: **completion, satisfaction, possession, and peace.**

# Summary

- God's rest is available through belief, 4:1-3
- God's rest was established at creation, 4:4-5
- God's rest is still available, 4:6-9
- God's rest excludes our working, 4:10-11
- God's Word discerns whether we are trusting or working, 4:12-13

# Conclusion

The “rest” spoken of by Moses (promised land rest) is not as great as the “rest” given by Jesus Christ—  
salvation rest > daily rest > eschatological rest > eternal rest.



Any  
questions  
so far?  
Agree,  
disagree?

# Fallen Away

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Hebrews 6:4-6

## HEBREWS 6:4–6

HEBREWS

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt

- What is Fallen Away?



# Interpretations

- Those who fall away
  1. Have lost their salvation
  2. Who have professed to be believers but really are not
  3. Hypothetical – if you could lose your salvation – would be impossible to be saved again.
  4. Only those Hebrews before the destruction of temple could commit this sin
  5. believers who turn away from God's truth and embrace error (i.e., apostates)

# Warning #3

5:11–6:20

Warning of desertion of the better priesthood



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who depart from the Christian faith either lose their salvation or prove they were never really saved and go to hell.
- B Truth Interpretation: Those who depart from the Christian faith have no other plea before God and will be disciplined severely.

# HEBREWS 6

## HEBREWS

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

# The thesis of 6:1–3 is debated

- a) The “therefore” of v. 1 implies that they had not gone on to maturity because they had never made a break with Judaism.
- b) The verb for “leaving” (**ajfivhmi, aor act ptc**) means “forsaking; *abandon*.” It implies that they were to leave behind or abandon these things and go on to something else.

# Elementary things...

- 1) **“Repentance from dead works,”** v. 1, 9:14.  
These are found in both OT and NT. (Isa 55:6-9; Ezk 18:30-32; Zec 12:10)
- 2) **“Faith toward God,”** v. 1. This doctrine too is found in both testaments. (Heb 11; Gen 15:6; Hab 2:4)

## Elementary things... (cont.)

- 3) **“Instruction about washings”** v. 2 seems best to say it looks toward the OT. The plural “washings” almost certainly is not NT baptism. Baptism is always singular. This is probably a reference to ceremonial washings (Ex. 29:4-6; 30:18-21; Lev. 6:27; 8:6; Num. 19; Heb 9:10, etc.).

# Elementary things... (cont.)

- 4) “Laying on of hands,” v. 2, describe practices and doctrines of both OT and NT. (Lev 1:4; 3:8, 13; 16:21; Num 8:10-11).



# Elementary things... (cont.)

- 5) **“Resurrection of the dead:”** Psa 16:9-10; Isa 26:19 - *Dew is here an apt type or symbol of bodily resurrection from the dead, the comparison centering upon the revitalizing effect of dew upon herbs being like the revivifying effect of the resurrection upon once dead bodies.;* Ezk 37:1-14; Dan 12:2; Heb. 11:24-25.

# Elementary things... (cont.)

- 6) **“Eternal Judgment:”** Ecc 12:14; Dan 7:9-10; cf. Rev. 20:10-15.

# Warning: risk and result of falling away, 6:4–6

## The Basic Problem, vv. 4-5.

- They have been enlightened, v. 4.
- They have tasted the heavenly gift, v. 4
- The writer describes some who “have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit” v. 4.
- They “have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come” v. 5.
- All four could be references to those who are under deep conviction by the Holy Spirit.

# The problem of verse 6

The participle is *parapesontas* (parapesovnta", *fall away, commit apostasy*) = FIVE POSSIBILITIES

- **First**, some take this to describe a saved person who loses his or her salvation.
- **Second**, some say this teaches that it is impossible to be saved over and over again
- **Third**, some attempt to interpret the passage as purely hypothetical.

# The problem of verse 6 (cont.)

The participle is *parapesontas* (parapesovnta", *fall away, commit apostasy*) = FIVE POSSIBILITIES

- **Fourth**, some see this as a reference to the believer's works and his rewards.
- The **Fifth** view is that the passage says it is a warning to those who had professed faith in Christ but were in danger of leaving Christianity to lapse back into Judaism.

# Hebrews 6

- 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,
- 6:2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
- 6:3 And God permitting, we will do so.

## History

All are found in  
Jewish teaching  
and in early  
Christian teaching

# Hebrews 6

6:4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

6:5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,

Language

All are ambivalent terms

One possibility:

*These people may have never actually become Christians!*

# Hebrews 6

6:4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

6:5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,

Language

All are ambivalent terms

Another possibility:

*This refers to true Christians.*



# Hebrews 6

6:7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.

6:8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Could refer to  
**Christian evaluation  
at the Judgment  
Seat — 2 Cor 5:10;  
Rom 14:10–12**

# Hebrews 6

6:7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.

6:8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Could refer to **professing believers (unsaved) who will suffer eternal judgment (Mal 4:1; Mat 3:10; 7:19; 25:41; Rev 20:15).**

# Possibilities

1. Christians who defect will be judged eternally (lose salvation).
2. Christians who defect must repent or be **disciplined**.
3. Those who defect may have never become **authentic** Christians.

# Possibilities

- ~~1. Christians who defect will be judged eternally (lose salvation).~~
2. Christians who defect must repent or be **disciplined**.
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These are the same basic possibilities as in Ch. 10!

# Possibilities

- ~~1. Christians who defect will be judged eternally (lose salvation).~~
2. Christians who defect must repent or be **disciplined**.
3. Those who defect may have **never become authentic Christians**.

Which one is right?  
Both?



Any  
questions  
so far?  
Agree,  
disagree?

# The WILLFUL SIN

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Hebrews 10:26-39

# HEBREWS 10:26–31

## HEBREWS

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 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? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.



- What is “Willful SIN” ?

# Warning #4

10:19–39

Warning not to turn from the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who sin willfully cannot be forgiven and lose their salvation or prove they are not saved and will suffer in hell.
- B Truth Interpretation: Those who sin willfully by departing from the Christian faith will be severely disciplined by God.

# HEBREWS 10:19–25

## HEBREWS

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

# Hebrews 10:19–39

- a. Draw near in **FAITH** — Better privileges of access under the sacrifice of Christ, vv. 19–22
- b. Hold fast in **HOPE** — A better hope based on the promise of God, v. 23.
- c. Better assembly for encouragement and strengthening in **LOVE**, vv. 24–25.
- d. **Warning:** The danger of contempt for the sacrifice of Christ and turning away from the new covenant, 10:26–31

# Hebrews 10:26–30

- This is the fourth warning passage: 2:1-4, drifting; 3:7–4:13, disobedience; 5:11–6:20, degeneration.
- 10:26 makes it clear that this is *willful sin*, in the same concept as was taught in Num 15:30–36. The “willful sin” is to be distinguished from “unintentional sins;” the *willful sin* is *apostasy* (cf. v. 28, Deut 13:8; 17:2-6). In this case it involved the *deliberate rejection of the gospel*, as vv. 28–29 explain.

# Hebrews 10:28–29

- Heb 10:28-29 describes the **willful sin**. 10:28 looks back to Deut 13:8 and Deut 17:2–6. A number of factors make this identification certain.
  - The sin deals with setting aside the Mosaic Law.
  - In *both* quotations from Deuteronomy the sin involves leaving the law of Moses to worship other gods.
  - The same stem translated “set aside” **atheteo** occurs in Heb 7:18 and 9:26.

# Three-fold description of the sin in Hebrews 10:29

1. This sin means a person “has trampled under foot the Son of God.” The verb *trampled, katapateo*, is the same as is used in Matt 7:6. It parallels crucifying the Son of God mentioned in Heb 6:6



# Three-fold description of the sin in Hebrews 10:29

2. Second, such a person “has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified.”

# Three-fold description of the sin in Hebrews 10:29

3. The third sin in v. 29 is committed when one “has insulted the Spirit of grace.” The verb *insult, enubridzo*, is very strong. It is very hard to find a better description of the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (cf. Matt 12:32; Mk 3:29; Lk 12:10).



Any  
questions  
so far?  
Agree,  
disagree?

# HOLINESS to see the Lord

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Hebrews 12:25-29

# HEBREWS 12:25–29

## HEBREWS

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

- What is Holiness?
- What is meant by “see the LORD” ?

# Warning #5

12:25–29

Warning against indifference and rebellion toward faith in Christ alone as savior



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who do not live holy lives will not be saved.
- B Truth Interpretation: Christians who do not live holy lives will not enjoy the intimate presence of God.



# Warning #5

12:28–29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.



# Truths?

- A Truth Interpretation: Those who disobey God will not escape his punishment of hell.
- B Truth Interpretation: Those who disobey God will not escape His severe discipline.

# Parenthetical warning & application

## #5: HOPE

- The coming of the kingdom will be preceded by a shaking of temporal things (cf. Isa 13:13; Ezek 38:19).
- Hebrews 12:29 is clearly a warning against taking His ultimate revelation for granted



Any  
questions  
so far?  
Agree,  
disagree?

# Two things to remember about Hebrews

1. **Christ is superior** to all things, past, present and future; to all religions and rituals; to all angels and human beings; to all laws and writings.
2. **Faith in Jesus Christ is superior** to all other means of reaching God and having a relationship with Him; there is no other way.

# Hebrews chs 1–10: Christ Is Superior

...to the prophets (1:1–3)

...to angels (1:4–2:18)

...to Moses (3:1–4:13)

...to the old priesthood (4:14–7:28)

...to the old Covenant (8:1–13)

...to the old Sanctuary (9:1–14)

...to the old sacrifices (9:15–10:18)

# Hebrews 11:1–13:25: Superiority of faith in Christ alone



1. Appointed heir of all things
2. Through Whom He made the universe
3. The radiance of God's glory
4. The exact representation of His Being
5. Sustains all things by His powerful Word
6. Provided purification for sins
7. Sat down at the right hand of Majesty in Heaven

## **WARNING #1** (2:1–18)

Danger of neglect of greater revelation

## **WARNING #2** (3:7–4:13)

Danger of unbelief. Failure to enter in to the rest by faith.

## **WARNING #3** (5:11–6:20)

Deserting the better Priest and priesthood

## **WARNING #4** (10:19–39)

Do not turn from the sacrifice of Christ

## **WARNING #5** (12:25–29)

Indifference and rebellion against the Christ

# Hebrews Warning Passages

- Heb 2.1-4, How shall we ESCAPE? -  
**Warning #1 (2:1-4): THE PERIL OF NEGLECT**  
*The path to glory is the path of suffering*
- Heb 3.7-4.13, Entering His rest  
**Warning #2 (3:7–4:13): THE PERIL OF DISOBEDIENCE**  
*The path to rest is the path of trusting*
- Heb 6.1-8, If they FALL AWAY  
**Warning #3 (5:11–6:20): THE PERIL OF IMMATURITY**  
*The path to growth is the path of obeying*

# Hebrews Warning Passages

- Heb 10.26-39, The WILLFUL SIN

**Warning #4 (10:26-31): THE PERIL OF REJECTION**

*The path to reward is the path of enduring*

- Heb 12.25-29, HOLINESS to see the Lord

**Warning #5 (12:25-29): THE PERIL OF REFUSAL**

*The path to holiness is the path of discipline*



# Application

- **We can have confidence in our positional righteousness and still earnestly strive for reward by being obedient to God**
- **We can quickly enter back into fellowship by confessing our sins and, when necessary, repenting of them as well**
- **We can be certain of our eternal life and new birth**
- **We should remember that acts of obedience serve to strengthen our faith!**

# Looking Forward

**We have been examining passages and books that relate to the three phases of salvation (past, present, and future)**

**Next week we will wrap up this study with some final thoughts and discussion on sharing the message of salvation.**