

The Better Possession

Hebrews 10:26-35

Hebrews 10:26-35 (ESV)

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. 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? 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. ³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

One of the greatest tests of the Christian life is doing it every day. And those who have a relationship with Jesus that is only skin deep and surface level will not survive. For example, if your marriage is only as deep as the ink on the marriage certificate you probably don't have a very good marriage.

As a matter of fact, the NT warns us that some professing Christians may not persevere in their profession of Jesus all the way to the end.

We know that warnings are warnings because they happen.

Hebrews 2:1 (ESV)

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

These warnings would not be in here if there wasn't a reason to put them there. How many people do you know who used to be believers, active in a church and now they have little to nothing do with the church or Jesus?

There are people who used to be pastors that not only cease being a pastor but have not only turned away from Christ but are now totally opposed to the work of Christ.

*How can you and I be sure that we will continue to the end?
By continuing today.*

This type of passage isn't here to make a believer doubt their salvation, but they are here for those who meddle and fiddle around with sin and then in turn begin to drift.

The best way we can show ourselves belonging to Christ is to live a life of continuance.

Hebrews 10:26-29 (ESV)

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. 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?

In its simplest terms this passage is saying that if we turn our back on this, we will nothing or no one standing in the gap for us which brings me to first point that I would like to share with you and that is...

1. CONTEMPT will KILL us

I'm going to try and explain this from the OT lens for a moment.

1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. ¹³ The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, ¹⁴ and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. ¹⁵ Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." ¹⁶ And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." ¹⁷ Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

²² Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³ And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. ²⁴ No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the

people of the Lord spreading abroad. ²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.

Something is very wrong in Shiloh because the priest, who are to be set apart for sacred use, are the one causing the corruption with their defiance against God.

It's no surprise to find pastors today who do not know God today. Crazy and perplexing but true. They were involved in God's service but had no living relationship with God. They had no idea where they were and were prepared to take the people into the same lostness as them.

God has laid out very specific ways for sacrifices to happen. And they must be done in an exact way. Don't believe me go and read Leviticus. These were not suggestions.

These worthless priests and sons of Eli showed contempt for the means that God had given his people for dealing with sin.

Eli heard what they were doing and being defiant they said, "We don't care."

Eli's two sons fits the description of Hebrews 10:26. They treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

CONTEMPT- worthless, beneath consideration

The only basis in which they could receive forgiveness was being held as worthless and beneath consideration by the priests. God killed them.

Fast forward back to Hebrews 10:26.

The only basis in which you and I can receive forgiveness is Jesus Christ. And if we hold Him as worthless and beneath consideration, we are committing the same atrocities as Eli's worthless sons.

If there is nothing in you to fight against your sin/lusts you are living a defiant life and holding Christ beneath consideration.

The result... The same as Eli's worthless sons.

Hebrews 10:32-34 (ESV)

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

This section of scripture brings me to my second point and that is...

2. RECALLING can RENEW us

The writer says, "Recall the former days" ...

We cannot be intimately moved by the things we forget, and a cold heart will be created from it. **Marriage Counseling- "It feels like we are dating all over again." They remembered why the fell in love in the first place.**

Look at how God strengthened his people. Hebrews says, "Recall the former days."

The former days were filled with adversity.

The adversity is what allows us to see the better possession we have. Adversity can show us what is most valuable and can help us determine priorities.

Think about your Christian life for a moment.

How much progress do you think you have made over the years through success and laughter compared to the progress you have made through adversity, failure, and pain?

3. CONFIDENCE can STRENGTHEN us

Hebrews 10:35 (ESV)

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

What is the great reward? The better possession. Consider a couple of Jesus parables for a moment

Matthew 13:44 (ESV)

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

This man finds the treasure and goes to hide it and knowing the supreme value of the treasure, sells all he has....

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Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV)

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

This merchant searched diligently for the fine pearls but when he found the one pearl of great value, he sacrificed all he had...

The Better Possession

CLOSING

I hope that you are leaving encouraged that you have the better possession. If sin remains a light issue in your life, you won't fully realize the treasure that you do have in Christ.

It was not necessary for God to save any people at all. He could have chosen in his perfect justice to have left us in our sin but in his perfect love for us He didn't.

That's why we can proclaim, "For you had compassion on those in prison and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one."

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1. _____ **will** _____ **us**

2. _____ **can** _____ **us**

3. _____ **can** _____ **us**