

A Consistent Hope: Stay Near

HVFC

October 5, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 10:26-35

Good morning, and welcome to the greatest month of the year...

I love this month, I always have. The changing of the seasons, football, and when I was kid relief from the southern summer heat. And it is the entry point to the last quarter of the year with the best eating holidays... I am already planning my first gumbo, looking forward to bonfires on cool evenings, hunting and butcher season where the freezers are full again as we prepare for the winter. It is just super exciting for me.

A couple of weeks ago we entered into the final quarter of the book of Hebrews, and I have the same kind of excitement and expectation for it as I do for the end of the year.

We have been looking at how we respond and live a consistently hopeful life.

As you know, this world doesn't offer any hope. And one of the greatest calamities of our younger generations is the despair from not having any hope that there is more to this life.

But God... through Jesus Christ has given us a hope that we can have eternal life with him.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, that if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

It is through the resurrection that we have hope that we can be free from Death, Hell and the grave.

In this chapter the writer gives us 4 things we are to do in response of this Hope that has been given to us through salvation.

First, we looked at the Entering into God's presence daily.

Last week we looked at holding fast to our confession of hope.

And we learned that we can truly only do that in a church community setting. You and I are encouraged to not forsake fellowshiping together.

With that we have come to the third response we are to have, to Stay near to God.

The writer changes things up a little this week and gives detailed pictures of our two options regarding our response to God.

Open your bible with me to Hebrews 10, we are going to pull two passages out and then circle back to the context.

Hebrews 10:31 & 35

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

NKJV

Let's Pray.

Our sermon passages this morning are some difficult scriptures.

As humans we struggle with authoritative structure. And here is our problem, we need it. If you have ever read the book The Lord of the Flies, this is what mankind could look like if we live lives with no authority to give us rules. It would descend into utter chaos. However as much as we need this structure, we hate it. And we often look for loopholes to be free from the rule of law. We want to be free and let the Big Sky Spirit within us run wild.

We want the blessings that this structure offers without any of the restrictions it demands.

And that is how most want to view God.

God is love and so if God really loves me, He is going to let me do anything I want, anytime, anyway, and remove any consequences from my choices.

We want all the blessings of his love, but none of the restrictions those blessings demand.

The context of our message this morning begins in verse 26.

Hebrews 10:26

26 For if we sin

NKJV

We have the word “for” which is a shorter version of the word “therefore” and it tells us to look back to what was just said.

He just said in the previous verse to not forsake the gathering together ...

That word forsaking means to desert, to be awol, to leave and not return.

Verse 26 ties back to this word when it begins.

For if we sin by forsaking the community of believers after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

There is a clear line that is being drawn. Jesus made mention in Matthew 25, and I have repeatedly remarked that there is only 2 herds, 2 camps, 2 options. Sheep and goats, heaven or hell, God or the devil. There is no neutral ground, no Swiss nation of neutrality.

Here in our passage this morning we see that line again being revealed.

And not only that, but the writer also goes into an explanation of what classifies or identifies the goats from the sheep.

I want to point out this about our passage, the writer is speaking to believers, of which some have forsaken and walked away from the faith, severing their conscience

and wholeheartedly rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. He is echoing chapter 2 about not rejecting this salvation.

Remember verse 25, he is speaking about those who have forsaken the community of faith.

What have these apostate's done to earn this badge?

First, they have rejected God's truth.

Hebrews 10:26-27

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

NKJV

Ok, as we can begin, we need to deal with the elephant in the room.

Most common translations begin verse 26 with "willfully" or "deliberately" or some terminology expressing choosing to sin.

You can raise your hand, nod, or smile, but how many of us are guilty of willfully or deliberately making a choice to sin?

Truth is every last one of us. So does that mean that there is no longer a sacrifice for your sin?

Barnes Commentary makes this remark.

If it, (meaning sinning willfully) were to be taken with metaphysical exactness, it would demonstrate that every Christian who ever does anything wrong, no matter how small, would be lost.

So it can't mean that.

What it does mean is those who deliberately and willfully abandons his faith, and turns away, forsakes, apostates from God's truth.

For those who have made this choice, there is no other way for them to atone for his sin and be reconciled with God because Jesus is the only way.

They have rejected the truth of Jesus Christ, who is the way the truth and the life. And to reject him only leaves a certain and fearful expectation of Judgement in hell. It also labels us an enemy of God.

Let's continue reading.

Hebrews 10:28

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

NKJV

In the book of Deuteronomy 17, the apostate was to be stoned to death at the gates of the city. This was only a physical death that was meaded out. In the new covenant, those who choose to forsake the gift of God will suffer an eternal death, which is far worse a punishment.

In rejecting God's Truth they also have trampled the Son of God.

Hebrews 10:29

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing...

NKJV

How many of us have a special person in our lives, whether spouse, child, grandparent, or friend, that if someone took to tearing them down and belittling

them, treating them like trash, they would be confronted with a different version of us?

This would be me.

Everyone knows me as a jovial, good natured, loud laugh kind of guy, but wrong my wife or my kids in some way. I guarantee you will walk away from that encounter with a different perspective of Will Parsons.

And that coming from an imperfect love, imagine those who trample Jesus, God's only son, in whom He is well pleased?

Want to see a different side of a loving, merciful, gracious God, reject Jesus, his son and you will see a totally different God on Judgement Day.

What does it mean to trample on Jesus? This word "trample" is used two other times in the gospels.

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

NKJV

Matt 7:6

nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet

NKJV

Both of these speak to regarding something as worthless, only good enough to be thrown away and given to pigs to trample in the mud and stink.

To trample on Jesus and his shed blood means to value him and his work on the cross as worthless, good for nothing but a swear word, to be mixed into the religious slurry of excrement and mud of a pig wallow.

That is what the apostate does when they trample the son of God, and counts his shed blood as unimportant.

Those who have forsaken the Gospel of Jesus Christ, have rejected God's Truth, Trampled God's Son, Despised the Spirit of Grace.

Hebrews 10:29

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

NKJV

To insult or despise the Spirit of Grace which is the Holy Spirit is the final straw. Here is why. Our journey of faith which lead to salvation began with us being drawn by the Holy Spirit to Jesus's forgiveness, which gives us access to God's presence.

The Holy Spirit is the still small voice that convicts us of our sin and leads us to restoration with God.

We have been speaking of someone that once has believed, and has now become apostate in their belief, they have forsaken wholeheartedly, a complete and utter rejection. Having heard the conviction of the spirit, to now rejecting it.

These have come to a place where they will not seek forgiveness from their sin through God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. And that choice condemns them to Hell and marks them as an enemy of God.

Every choice has a consequence. For those who choose to reject God's grace, they receive the consequence of God's vengeance.

Hebrews 10:30-31

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

NKJV

I am going to wrap this up next week. I am only halfway through, and I have 4 more points to make...

The truth is one day we will all be in the hands of a living God.

Verse 30 says that the Lord will judge His people.

And he will have his vengeance and repay his enemies.

Those who despise the Spirit of Grace, trample God's Son, and Reject God's truth will find themselves in the hands of a living and fearful God.

And as terrifying as that is, it is us that chooses to become an enemy of God.

God has provided everything we need, all we must do is have faith in Him and the work of Jesus. Enter into his presence with boldness, hold fast to our confession of hope within our local church herd, and stay near to God.

I know today we looked at what it looks like to cast your confidence away and fearfully fall into the hands of the living God.

While most of us in this room and small groups are not apostates, that slide begins with a small crack that if not dealt with grows into a great chasm.

The text has given us a clear picture of what forsaking God.

So what do we do with this?

Examine your heart, ask the Holy Spirit to test your motives and intentions and convict us of any area that we have begun rejecting God's truth, trampled God's son, or despised the Spirit of grace.

They start small and if left unaddressed with grow.

Stand with me.