

The Real Risk of Falling into Judgment

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Hebrews Class Discussions / Apostasy; Faithfulness; Salvation; Assurance / Heb 10:26–31

F. S. Apathy and Absence regarding the Christian community are signs on the terrifying path to apostasy.

Signs of the Road You're On

We took a trip to Indiana to get Jordan to college in 2017. Evidently, we went the wrong direction after a restroom stop on Hwy 285 near south of Buena Vista, [CO.](#) I started noticing signs for a road numbered “50” instead of “285.” Then we came to a series of switchbacks ascending a mountain. I knew that was not part of our route to Denver. Then a majestic elk moseyed across the road right in front of my car. All of these signs helped me realize, “We’re on the wrong road.” We turned around and found where we went wrong.

Apollos Brings the Warning into Their Lap: “Wrong Way!”

1. *Ongoing sin refers to signs of drift toward [apostasy](#). (v. 26)*

Understand that “go on sinning deliberately” includes forsaking fellowship with the Christian community and not continuing in love and good works, which mean not drawing near to God per the confession of faith. In other words, these are signs of turning from Jesus and to something else -- perhaps yourself -- for serving God with your life.

- [Heb 10:25](#) warrants the move in this paragraph. The parallel relation of the three exhortations in [Heb 10:22-24](#) means that these things are still in view.
- Recall the warning of [Heb 6:4-8](#) directed to this audience.

2. *Rejecting God's grace means receiving God's wrath. (v. 26-27)*

Turning from Jesus means rejecting the sacrifice he has offered that finally, perfectly forgives sins. Without that, one can only look forward to the Wrath God will one day bring against his other enemies.

- [Hebrews 6:6](#) already mentioned the impossibility of restoring one who rejects Jesus.
- [Heb 10:18](#) concluded the entire teaching regarding the perfect cleansing blood of Jesus.
- John the Baptist preached / warned of the “coming wrath” as judgment fire: [Matthew 3:7-12](#).

3. *God's justice was established in Old Covenant experience. (v. 28)*

Think about it: under the now-obsolete law of Moses, forsaking the published will of God met with lethal punishment when established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. The covenant in Christ is infinitely greater than the old one in Moses. So, of course, the cost for apostasy is also infinitely greater, as the offense is that much greater.

- Apollos has already made a lesson of the Exodus generation: [Heb 3:16-19](#).
- Jesus' superiority to Moses and the Old Covenant has been established: [Heb 3:5-6](#); [10:24-26](#).

4. *Three Witnesses testify against apostate Christians. (v. 29)*

Now consider this: those who willfully persist in disregarding the voice of God in Jesus have three witnesses testifying against them: a) the “trampled” Son of God (who is destined to have all enemies as his “footstool”); b) the profaned sanctifying blood of the covenant Jesus offered (thus rejecting that sanctification; also, it is the promised covenant the Father spoke of); c) the “outraged” Holy Spirit (who revealed the truth personally through the word, gently, graciously). In other words, you have God himself testifying against you.

- “trampled the Son of God”; see [Heb 1:13](#) ([Ps 110:1](#)).

- “profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified”; see [Heb 10:14-17](#).
- “outraged the Holy Spirit of grace”; see [Heb 6:5](#); [2:4](#).

5. *The New Covenant that offers grace in Jesus also offers Wrath apart from him. (v. 30-31)*

For those who set themselves as his enemies, as those who reject his covenant, God reserves the right of vengeance. It is to finally “vindicate” the people of his possession that God will bring wrath on his enemies for the sake of his people. You don’t want to be on that terrifying side of the covenant.

- Quotes from the Song of Moses, [Deut 32:35-36](#).
- God’s justice is for the sake of his holy Community; vengeance on enemies “vindicates” the faithful. Consider [Rev 6:9-11](#); [14:9-13](#).

Conclusion

Apostasy is forever fatal. Disengagement from the Christian community and apathy toward God and good deeds in his service signal that one is on the way to apostasy rather than to heaven.

Discussion

- A. What does Apollos say here that makes it clear that genuine Christians can become lost again?
- B. How does what Apollos said lead you to respond to recent trends in church attendance?
- C. What things should warn us about drifting toward apostasy even if we attend church regularly?