

## Fearful, Not Afraid

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

**24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

**25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**26** For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

**27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

**28** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

**29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**30** For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

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

- **Church is More Than a Place to Go...**

- "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one

another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."- **Hebrews 10:23-25**

- **Hebrews 10:25** is not the full thought given by God's Word.
  - I quote it often and have heard it quoted often, but never with the full thought.
  - I do not believe the child of God makes a wise decision anytime they choose to forsake the assembly.
  - That being said, this verse is about MUCH MORE than church attendance.
    - As God's Child I have professed HIM in FAITH
      - This means I am part of HIS body (the church)
      - This means that I cannot falter in this point of faith (not wavering)
      - This means I am clinging to the promises of God attached to His Church
    - When we lift up the Head (Jesus Christ) all are drawn to Him
    - Nothing Satan or hell brings will prevail against HIS Church
      - (if it's not His church, Satan and hell have already prevailed)
    - Being part of the Body...
      - I am to provoke other members to allow their faith to produce godly love in their lives
      - I am to provoke other members to allow their faith to produce good works

- I am to provoke other members to be faithful to do these two things
  - When we aren't together...
    - If we don't assemble there is no provoking
    - Provoke can be contentious but only by choice
  - When we are together...
    - Exhort (you don't have to provoke the willing) each other
    - Keep doing these things
- **Choosing Fire (Condemning or Consuming)**
  - "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."- **Hebrews 10:26-27**
  - Church is vital to the child of God.
    - If my finger were to be taken from my body it would cease to be a finger.
      - It would become lifeless.
      - It would be dead and eventually wither and cease to exist.
    - We being members of the body need to be so very aware of our choices.
      - When we choose to not be a part of the body of Christ, we are choosing death.
  - Now, God is going to judge all mankind.
    - There will come a time when all will be brought before the Almighty Righteous Judge.
    - For those who die in their sins they will be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will receive their final condemnation,

- they will be devoured for all eternity having chosen to be an enemy or adversary of Christ.

- **Revelation 20:11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

**12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

**13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

**14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

**15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Those who are IN Christ will stand before God and give an answer for all that we do IN Christ.
  - Our entire life built on the foundation of Christ, but the materials used to build our lives are our choice.
  - Works of our flesh will be wood, hay, and stubble,
  - our Worship of Spirit will be gold, silver, and precious stones.

- Each of our lives will be made manifest and then tried by the Consuming Fire that our Holy Righteous Creator God is.
- Our flesh and all that was accomplished in its name will be lost,
- but those things done from a heart of worship that is following after the Spirit, those things will be part of our eternality.
- This willful sin after salvation is directly after speaking of being a part of God's Assembly.
- Coincidence? I don't think so.
- So, you may choose not to be a part for the Body of Christ after that you are known of Christ, but just know that all you do will be lost.
- Your life away from the body will be short and destruction and death are not a possibility but the inevitability of your choice.
- You will have eternity to consider the choice you make in each brief moment today.
- You may have escaped God's Condemning Fire, praise Jesus, but you will not escape the loss of God's Consuming Fire.
  - **1 Corinthians 3:11** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**12** Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

**13** Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

**14** If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

**15** If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

○ **Deuteronomy 4:23** Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of anything, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

**24** For the LORD thy God *is* a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.

○ **Hebrews 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

○ **29** For our God *is* a consuming fire.

- **Fearful, Not Afraid**

- "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."- **Hebrews 10:31**

- I grew up fearful and afraid.
  - I knew only a God that would chastise me if I did wrong, because that was my relationship with my father.
  - I'm not saying my dad did anything wrong, I needed the strong father that I had, he is my hero.
  - I'm just saying that I drew a poor perspective of who God really is.
  - However, my heart is full of wickedness and bent on rebellion and just as I would disobey my earthly father and just take the consequences when caught, I too would just do what I wanted and wait for God to chastise.
  
- I can't help but wonder if my love for Greek mythology helped shape my skewed perspective of the Only God.
  - I often waited for the "lightening bolt" of just rewards to take me out MANY times.
  - Even after I got saved at 26 I was very afraid to be out in the open when there was a lightning storm...
  - I was fearful and afraid.
  
- As my knowledge of who God is grew so too did my relationship with Christ.
  - I learned that He is the Image of God.
  - I learned that He is the Person of God.
  - I learned that He is the Mercy and Grace of God.

- I learned that it is the Goodness of God that leads folks to repentance.
- I learned that the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom is not a fearful looking for His righteous judgment,
- but a fearful awareness that I have left His presence.
- I hate realizing that I have allowed my wicked rebellious heart to take me away from a place of close fellowship with Him.
- If I would listen to this fear, I would never have to be afraid of my God.
- **I want to be fearful, not afraid**
- **So, here's the thing...**
  - **I can't get away from the fact that God talks about willful sin in the context of choosing not to be at church**
  - As the pastor of Faith, I have had to repent to God and now I ask the church to forgive me (share)
    - I am here to provoke you
    - I am to go to where you are and provoke you
    - We are commanded to provoke one another to good works
    - The top of the list of those good works is getting in on the body of Christ (that's church)
    - Some may have to tendency to pick and choose whether to come depending on...
      - How they feel
      - Not enough time
      - What someone said
      - What someone did
      - Work for more



- There is heart thing here...
  - God knows our hearts
  - God knows the why and just how prideful it is
  - God knows whether or not church is important to us
- When we CHOOSE not to be a part of the body of Christ, we are choosing death...as the choice is a WILLFUL SIN
  - This being fearful and afraid will be a byproduct of our poor choices
  - God chastises those He loves
  - God loves His Bride
- When we choose to be a part of the Body of Christ, we choose to do our part in living and providing life
  - Being fearful, not afraid is the byproduct