

"The Better Sacrifice"

Part 12

Hebrews 9:12-10:39

Introduction: In our study of Hebrews we have come to the 4th warning of this letter and it is the warning against apostasy. There were those who would read this letter who were not saved but they "professed" to be believers. Now that they were facing the pressure of the persecution they were contemplating walking away from Christianity and going back to Judaism. So out of concern the writer warns them about apostasy and starting in Hebrews 10:26 and going through to the end of the chapter the writer warns these people about walking away from the knowledge of the Truth.

Let me give you a quick review then we shall get to where we stopped last week.

I. **The Description of Apostasy**

Notice Hebrews 10:26

This is a willful continual sin. The sin referenced here is not something that a person decides to step into and then later repents but this is a deliberate determination to know the Truth about Jesus Christ and then walk away without EVER accepting Him and Savior. It is what Jesus spoke of in the Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:13

¹³ *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.***

For the person who turns their back on Jesus they must understand that there remains no other sacrifice for sin. Jesus was the fulfillment of all the sacrifices of the Old Testament and He is the FINAL Sacrifice. There is no other place to find forgiveness of sin.

Acts 4:12

¹² *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

John 14:6

⁶ *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

II. The Cost of Apostasy

Notice Hebrews 10:27

Here the writer warns his readers about what awaits the apostate. He will not find another way of salvation but instead he can live to expect to experience the most severe judgment of any who die unsaved. The writer gets detailed about the judgment here because he knows that there are different degrees of punishment for the unsaved. He also knows that the degree of punishment handed out on the Day of Judgment will be based upon the amount of Truth which the person was exposed to. Therefore, someone who has been brought into the knowledge of the Truth about Jesus Christ and then walks away that person will receive the greatest degree of punishment in the Lake of Fire.

III. The Example

Notice Hebrews 10:28

Here the writer states that anyone of the Old Testament who despised the Law died without mercy. The example of this is in Numbers 15:30-36.

IV. The Reasoning

Notice Hebrews 10:29

We started into this verse last week but did not get very deep. So I want to pick it up right here tonight because there is so much here to see. **This verse helps us to see the how "close" someone can get to salvation and still walk away.**

I want us to look at this verse in sections:

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God,"

First of all we see that the person who knows the Truth and walks away will receive a greater degree of punishment. The people of the Old Covenant who wilfully sinned against Moses' Law died without mercy but to have the Truth of the Gospel and to turn from it was an even greater offense against God. The person who does this shall face a much "sorer" punishment. The word "sorer" means "WORSE". To turn from the Gospel is to

trodden underfoot the Son of God. In other words it is to show disrespect to God and the grace and love which He has shown to the entire world.

"and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing..."

The second point we see in this verse is the apostate's attitude toward the BLOOD which Jesus shed for the forgiveness of sin. Now there is something said here that causes many people to think the writer is addressing believers. The writer tells his readers this person has been "sanctified by the blood". So this makes me raise a question, "How can an individual be "sanctified by the blood" and not be saved?"

I want to take the time and help you see how this is possible. Let me start by showing you what JFB say concerning the person who is not saved but understands the Gospel:

"Christ died even for him. "Sanctified," in the fullest sense, belongs only to the saved elect. But in some sense it belongs also to those who have gone a far way in Christian experience, and yet fall away at last. The higher such a one's past Christian experiences, the deeper his fall."

The Bible is very clear that within the gathering of the body of Christ there is a protection.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 12

It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

² *And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*

³ *For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,*

⁴ *In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

⁵ *To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

¹³ *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

This man was to be PUT OUT of from the other believers and when he was put out Satan would then have access to him. This helps us to see that in the community of the church there is a protection.

That is the idea by the writer of Hebrews. The apostate can become so involved in the church and so rooted in that he comes under the protection of the blood. So in a sense he is "set apart" from the world by the blood. He or she experiences many of the blessings of the body of Christ but they have never been saved. Let me give you something else to consider which may very well have been on the mind of the writer. I want to take you back to the Passover in Exodus 12.

Exodus 12:1-7, 12-13

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying,

² This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

³ Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

⁴ And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

⁶ And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

⁷ And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

That night in the land of Egypt ALL of Israel was protected by the blood of the Lamb. But I can assure you that not ALL of those people were saved. They were "set apart" by the blood that night but not all were saved. Some of them reaped some of the temporal benefits while at the same time they were not saved.

Let me share with you one more thought on this. In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul is talking on the subject of marriage.

1 Corinthians 7:13-14

¹³ *And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.*

¹⁴ *For the unbelieving husband is **sanctified** by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is **sanctified** by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.*

The unbeliever is under the blessings of God because their spouse is saved.

In the same way the unbeliever who has PROFESSED salvation and is plugged in with the body of Christ is also under the blessings of God and in a sense has been "sanctified" by the blood of Jesus Christ but not in the sense of salvation. Now this man or woman understands the importance of the blood because they have heard the teachings within the gatherings. But the writer tells us they have counted the blood of the Covenant an "unholy thing". This means that this person has declared (with their turning away) that the blood of Jesus Christ is not important.

Notice the words of John Phillips:

"The person envisioned here is one who professed faith in Christ and came, as it were, under the shadow of the cross and was outwardly identified with the Christian community. He was associated in the public eye with those set apart by Christ. He was identified with the 'blood of the Covenant'. He professed to be sanctified. But it was not real. He has turned his back on all that now. One step more and he would have truly been covered by the blood and saved forevermore, but now he has willfully refused God's salvation."

"and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

The third point we see about this person in this verse is they have done "DESPITE" unto the Spirit of grace. The word "DESPITE" means "to INSULT". The writer does not refer to the Holy Spirit just as the "Spirit" but here he refers to Him as the "Spirit of grace". This tells us this individual has come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit has been working on his heart but he refuses to make the decision to accept Jesus Christ and therefore the Spirit who desires to come in and wash him clean and who desires to live within him has been rejected. When he turns and walks away from Jesus Christ he has truly insulted the Spirit of God who has desired to pour grace into this person's life. This would be the saving grace which is needed for salvation.

So the sin of the apostate is very serious because he has turned his back on God's salvation, God's Son and God's Spirit. This makes the sin far greater than the despising of Moses' Law. For that reason this person shall fear.

Notice Hebrews 10:30

The writer references Deuteronomy 32:35-36. There is a statement in this verse which causes some to question who the writer is writing to: "*The Lord shall judge his people*".

This causes some people to think the writer is writing to believers only. But that is not the case. He is writing to Hebrews so they are "HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE" even if they are not saved. The Lord will judge HIS PEOPLE and He will also judge the Gentiles someday.

Notice Hebrews 10:31

The writer is stating Truth which will cause his readers to think. He reminds them of how fearful it would be to fall into the hands of the living God. The word "living" is to emphasize that because God is living the His punishment on the sinner will last forever.

I have heard people say when they get to see God they have many questions to ask Him concerning the difficulties they faced in life. These people have no idea what it will be like to face God. Let me give you something to consider. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. He had the closest relationship of all the disciples with the Lord. With that said let me show you how he responded when he saw Jesus in all His glory.

Revelation 1:12-17a

¹² *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

¹³ *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

¹⁴ *His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;*

¹⁵ *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

¹⁶ *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

¹⁷ *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.*

Conclusion:

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Hebrews Study #79

People have no idea what it will be like when they face God and stand before Him in all of their sin. If it were possible they would die out of fear. But they will not die for they will stand before Him and receive the punishment handed out to them based upon their sin and the Truth they had been exposed to.