

## Bible Study: Sept. 13, 2022

### “Dave, Should We Be Afraid of Heb. 10?”

#### I. “And the Answer Is...”

- A. ...Yes. There are some dire warnings in Heb. 10:26-31 — clearly some of the scariest verses of the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews warns his audience that falling back into a lifestyle of sin as a believer can bring dire consequences into their lives. In this life, if we even as believers reject God’s grace and take up a dark, sinful lifestyle, God will remove His protection from us and let us suffer the full consequences of our sins even to the point of death. The point here is that, for believers, that judgment does not carry beyond the grave.
- B. ...and No. What’s important to realize is that, although God reserves the right to discipline, even severely discipline believers who consciously try to walk away from the faith, He can not and will not withdraw His Spirit. He can not and will not leave a believer and cast him or her into Hell. He may kill that person, but He can not and will not take away that person’s eternal salvation. Heb. 10:26-31 should scare believers who reject God and take up a sinful lifestyle, but there is nothing in these verses that affords God the opportunity to send those people to Hell.

Our goal tonight is to clarify Heb. 10:26-31, to lay out exactly what it says and means and why it should not be used as an argument supporting the false belief that God’s gift of salvation can be yanked away from us — that, even as believers, we are in constant danger of eternal condemnation. Certainly, the verses in question, drawn out of context, would seem to provide foundation to those fears:

**Heb. 10:26-31** — “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted 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 terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Whoa! This is, in truth, scary stuff!

## II. Truth: Heb. 10 Contains Some of the Bible's Strongest and Clearest Affirmations of Our Eternal Security

### A. What Is "Eternal Security"?

"Eternal security" is the doctrine that says the grace, the gifts, the salvation of God is irreversible, that God will not and can not ever withdraw His gift of eternal life and the Holy Spirit of God from any believer, once those treasures have been received.

### B. Heb. 10 contains tremendous affirmations of this doctrine.

**Vs. 10** — By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. ("Sanctified" is the Greek word 'ha-gee-ad-zo' which means "separated from profane things and dedicated or consecrated to God; purified by expiation (atonement) extinguishing the guilt of someone or something.")

**Vs. 11-14** — Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies are made a footstool for His feet. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

**Vs. 16-18** — "This is the covenant which I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: "I will put My laws upon their hearts, and write them on their mind," He then says, 17 "And their sins and their lawless deeds I will no longer remember." 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, an offering for sin is no longer required. (KJV: ...there is no more offering for sin.)

With these verses in mind, we go back to verses 1-2 and look at the astounding statement there.

**Vs. 1-2** — For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the form of those things itself, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually every year, make those who approach perfect. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

### III. The Argument of the Other Side.

#### A. The I-Know-Someone Argument

Rebuttal #1 — Don't argue out of circumstance. Circumstance does not negate the Word of God. (You can't know someone else's true circumstance anyway. You can't even know if the person in question is saved. In fact, 1 John 3 provides a strong argument that believers who abandon the faith entirely were never saved in the first place.)

**1 John 3:6, 9** — No one who remains in Him sins continually; no one who sins continually has seen Him or knows Him. ... No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin continually, because he has been born of God.

Rebuttal #2 — Hebrews 10 doesn't say that believers who fall into a lifestyle of sin are not chastised, sometimes severely. What Scripture says is that "the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Rom. 11:29)

### IV. So What Do Those Scary Verses Actually Mean?

**Heb. 10:26-31** — For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted 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 terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

#### A. There Is a Form of Judgment, a Form of Discipline Which Faces Believers Who Fall into a Lifestyle of Sin

1 Cor. 5:1-5 — It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, namely, that someone has his father's wife. 2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. 3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assem-

bled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

## V. Closing

The issue in this argument is that people who believe that God can simply revoke all of His promises and withdraw His gifts have never fully received a vision of God's goodness. The Scripture is right there in front of them —

Rom. 11:29 — For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.

Rom. 4:15 — Where there is no law, there also is no violation.

Heb. 10:14 — For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

1 Cor. 1:30 — But it is due to Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

1 John 4:18 — There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

- B. John 8:30-36 — “As He said these things, many came to believe in Him. 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ 33 They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 Now the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.””

PICTURE: Tonight I want to begin our discussion by calling up a vision from a past lesson. Several months ago, I pointed out to you that the most disconcerting, the most uncomfortable, the most fearful truth that Jesus ever taught was this: in the end, there are only two road. There is the wide road that leads to destruction and the narrow road that leads to life. All of us are on one of those two roads. In the same way, Jesus talks about sheep and goats, wheat and tares, saints and sinners, children of the Kingdom or children of God. There are only two choices.

If we try to compose a picture of those two roads, the wide road and the narrow road, and we apply it to the world around us, we can see that these two roads are separated by a wide canyon. The more distance you cover, the wider that canyon seems to become, and you find, as you travel down the narrow road, that your values and your behavior become more and more different from the people who travel that other wide road.

## **II. The Destruction that Awaits Those on the Wide Road Begins with the Law.**

## **II. The Wide Road Is Governed by Law, but the Law Inevitably Brings about Destruction through a Five-Step Process.**

A. Law both defines and provokes sin.

1. 1 John 3:4 — “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
2. 1 Cor. 15:56 — The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law  
Rom. 7:7-8 — What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law;