**Hebrews 10:26-39 Grace Group Notes Week 11**

The author pleads with his people not to waste their faith or throw it away, and he warns them of dire consequences. The benefits we have as Christians are extraordinary; we can go to heaven, and we can know God personally-all because of what Jesus did for us. If we continue to deliberately sin when we know the Lord, we waste what He did, and there will be nothing to look forward to other than God's disappointment and judgment. In the Old Testament, if people did not obey Moses, they could be put to death; when we disobey Christ, we are guilty of so much more. We insult Christ and enrage the Holy Spirit; why would we want to do that?

God has the right to judge and hold us accountable, and we have the obligation to obey. We can do so because of His shed blood spilt for us. Never forget what Christ has personally done for you; hold on to this as a part of your faith. Realize what he has done and what he has led you from; trust in Christ as you have in the past and as you still can do.

We must remain steadfast in Him and not waver. What waits for us in eternity is well worth anything we can face here for a short time. So, let us continue the faith and do God's will. As righteous people, we must live by faith and never turn away from Christ, for our salvation is assured when we are in Christ!

This previous passage and context give us five exhortations or calls from Jesus because of our reconciliation to the Father. These are responses we give of faith back to Christ for what he has done:

**1. *draw near to God*.**

**2. *hold unswervingly to . . . hope, faith and love.***

**3. *spur one another on*.**

**4. *do not give up meeting together*.**

**5. *encourage one another*.** The point is that assembling as believers is essential for mutual growth and learning as well as faith and encouragement to be built up, something we all need-persecuted or not.

Now the author transitions to what will happen if they seek to abandon their faith-and it is not pretty. **We are responsible for our decisions and actions no matter what our circumstances are. At the same time, we have a God who, with outstretched hand, cares about us.**

**· *Deliberately/willfully keep on sinning***. This means intentional and continual sin, a person refusing to stop or repent; the warning is **do not do this!** This would be like knowing God and His principles, yet intentionally disobeying them and/or enticing others to do so too. This would also be abandoning the care of a church fellowship, deserting the Church, and/or not going anywhere to worship as well as doing things contrary to God's will. This insults God, and causes Christ to be crucified again; His grace is still there, beckoning us back. But if we stray too far and too long, we will pay for it and will deserve it. It is grace that is offered-which we do not deserve. This is also a retort to those who think they are not sinning when they are, or rationalize it as OK. (Ex. 24:8; Num.15:27-31; Lev. 4:2, 22; Mark 14:24; Heb. 5:2; 6:4; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 1:8; 2:1-2).

**· *No sacrifice for intentional sins*.** In the Old Testament, there is no sacrifice available for someone who disobeyed or betrayed God on purpose. To some extent, the Day of Atonement was offered but was not good enough; so, if they went back to Judaism, there was nothing good awaiting them. If we abandoned our Faith and Savior, to whom would we turn? For the Jew, it is the sacrificial system that God pointed to as having been fulfilled in Christ, so one would be straying where there was no hope, purpose, or help.

**· *Rejected/set aside the Law of Moses*.** Means turning away from God to what is meaningless, such as idols. Also a warning against apostasy, which is the blatant disregard for God and His truth because we think God does not care, not taking our faith seriously, or the rejection of our faith commitment. This can also mean to reject the sacrifice and work of Christ for our sin, the only Way anyone can be saved (Deut. 17:1-7; Ex. 24:8; 19:15; Isa. 26:11; Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Heb. 9:20; 13:20)

**· *The Lord will judge his people*.** A quote from Deut. 32:35-36, God has the right and obligation to judge just as parents discipline their children so they do not fall into further harm and can make a healthy development. We will be held to account for what we did in this life; grace is given, but so is responsibility. In Judaism as well as in Christianity, we can't pick and choose what percepts we like and do not like. We are held to account, and have no right to rationalize away God's Word; thus liberalism, as well as arrogance, is strictly condemned (Deut. 13:6-11; 17:2-7; 32:35-36; Isa. 63:10-18; Matt. 7:6; 1 Pet. 4:17).

**· *Fall into the hands of the living God*.** This is both a statement of mercy and judgment: trust in His mercy and beware of His wrath (Ex. 30:12; 2 Sam. 24:14-16; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Heb. 6:9-12).

Just as loving parents warn and discipline their child so he or she can grow up well, so God does with us. We still have responsibility toward the privilege we receive as Christians, even though it is free and grace. To grow and experience this changed life, we have to trust and obey; there is no other way! We are accountable for learning His precepts and call and putting them in our life, encouraging others to do so too by example-and even words when necessary! If we do not do this, we will miss out on so much and even suffer the natural consequences, perhaps even judgment. And, when we do grow, we need to keep at it; God does not like us rebelling and backsliding. We will be held to account.

Christ gave us His ultimate sacrifice and merely asks us to receive Him and carry out His will, which is to know Him more and make Him known to others more. Our status is changed in Christ. We were sinners; now we are people of His Way. We are united to Him, reconciled to God, and filled with the Spirit. Now, we are in the process of continued blessings, and dedication to Christ because of His work, so we can respond by faith, worship, and spiritual formation.

This is what sanctification is all about-growing in Christ. It is the Christian's life-long process of discipleship and spiritual growth that builds our faith and knowledge in Him as well as our confidence, maturity, character, and spiritual formation. We become changed when we receive Christ and we keep growing. If not, there is something fundamentally wrong (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 5; Heb. 12:14).

**Have you, even at times, not taken your faith seriously or rejected your faith commitment? What did it take or what would it take for you to accept it with joy?**

**How have you been fed up, weary for Christ, or felt tired of it, as we can all be at times? What does it take to remain steadfast in Him and not waver?**

**How is eternity well worth anything we might face here for a short time?**

**What would cause you to deliberately sin when you know the Lord and know better? How can you be on guard against this? What is your weak link and how can you protect it? Who can help you?**

**Memory Verse:** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name. Hebrews 13:15

*taken from:* intothyword.org By Dr. Richard J. Krejcir