

The Danger of Turning Away

Hebrews 10:26-39 contains one of the most sobering warnings in the New Testament. It reminds Christians that faithfulness to Christ must not be treated lightly. The sacrifice of Jesus is the only sacrifice that can cleanse us from sin. Therefore, to turn away from Him and return to a life of willful sin is to turn away from the very thing we need most.

The Hebrew writer is not speaking of a Christian who stumbles, recognizes his sin, and seeks forgiveness. God has made provision for His children when they repent and confess their sins. Rather, Hebrews 10 warns against a deliberate and continued state of rebellion. It describes one who has received the knowledge of the truth, understands what Christ has done, and yet chooses to go on rejecting His will.

The penalty for such willful sinning is fearful. When one turns from Christ, there remains no other sacrifice for sin. Peace is replaced with the expectation of judgment. Confidence is replaced with fear. The blood of Christ, which once sanctified, is treated as common. The Son of God is trampled underfoot, and the Spirit of grace is insulted.

This warning should cause every Christian to examine his heart. Are we holding fast to our confidence in Christ? Are we remembering the joy and commitment we had when we first obeyed the gospel? Are we enduring faithfully, even when life is difficult? Hebrews 10 urges us not to draw back, but to live by faith and continue forward toward the reward God has promised.

The sacrifice of Christ is too precious to abandon. If we turn away from Christ and go back to a life of sin, we forfeit what Jesus offered us in His sacrifice. Let us therefore remain faithful, guard our hearts, repent when we sin, and never treat lightly the blood that was shed for our salvation.

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