

Hebrews 2025 | Warning: Judgement With Fire Ahead

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Hebrews 10:26-31

If you have your Bible open to Hebrews chapter 10. We're going to continue to walk through verse by verse the book of Hebrews. We will be in Hebrews chapter 10 and looking at verses 26 through 31 this morning.

I know you, like me, are going to have various temptations in 2026. For example, there is going to be that time when we're going to be driving down the road and all of a sudden we're going to see that sign that we wish we didn't see but it tells us that road construction is ahead and we're in a hurry. Then, as we get a little closer to the road construction, there is another sign that tells us we have to slow down a lot slower than we actually want to go. Then, we're in it. Have you noticed that right before you get to the actual road construction there is now a third sign and this third sign is reminding us that if we speed our speeding fine will be doubled? Therefore, we drive at our own risk. Does everyone agree with that? If I get caught speeding in that construction zone I was warned. Therefore, when I pay my fine I can't blame anybody because I disregarded the warning.

Maybe you're going to walk into that store and you're going to stand in line and ask for a package. That package is going to tell you that if you put this in your mouth it's going to be dangerous to your health but you're going to do it anyway. Then later in life when you are diagnosed with lung cancer it's nobody's fault but yours. You did not heed the warning.

Now, I know you've always wanted to do this. You're in the bathtub and you really want to blow dry your hair while you're in the bathtub but that little sticker warns you that if you do blow dry your hair in the bathtub there is a really big chance you will die by electrical shock so you can't sue the company if you do that.

This is not the way I would've wanted to start 2026 but I have to trust God knew in his sovereignty when Kory chose for us to preach through Hebrews that this morning's message would be a warning. Life comes with a warning. Do you know what is ahead for some? Judgement with fire. As a pastor of over 40 years it breaks my heart to have to preach this passage but it's the truth of God.

Scripture:

Hebrews 10:26-31 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged 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 fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Notice our paragraph starts with that little, three letter English word, "for." Verse 26 says, "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries." This word, "for" is a connecting word and it's tying this warning to what has just been said. Now, we loved the message last week because it began with that famous, "therefore" and Chris reminded us we are to stop and see what it's there for and we understood that we have three application steps, three responses, to what has been revealed to us so far in this amazing sermon. We have Jesus as our high priest sitting at the right hand throne of God and because he's there and that curtain has been torn apart we are to draw near to him and we're to hold fast our confession and we're to consider how to stir up one another. We are to stir the pot as Chris reminded us, when we gather together as the body of Christ because we want to stir up in the body, members, body parts who are loving and doing good works. We're not going to be like some who have developed the habit of not meeting together when the body meets

together. Now he's going to tie what he's going to say next to what he just said with this little word, "for."

See, what we're going to come to understand is why you and I, as believers in the church, should be responding positively to this good news of the gospel, that we have a better covenant with a better priest to it. We draw near, we hold fast to our confession, and we consider how to stir up one another. There is a negative response we could also have and some already are in the habit of this negative response. Do you know what they're not doing? They're not meeting together when the church assembles some of the supposedly body parts don't assemble.

I hope you've picked this up and it may be hard in 2026 in this social media age for us to grasp this but they young Jewish preacher believes this- participation in the body of Christ is synonymous with participation in Christ. Did you catch that? If you are not a part of the assembling then you are not part of Christ. You can't have Christ without his body. The body of Christ, its assembling is the manifested presence of Christ on the earth. Yes, our head, Christ, is in heaven at the right hand throne of God and he's sitting, making intercession for us, his body. Why? Because we are here on this earth. We are his manifested presence. So when the body assembles, we assemble not just to sing songs of worship and not just to hear a sermon and go home but to stir up one another, to encourage one another, to look around and realize there is a body part here this week who may have had such a rough time that they need someone to stir them up to unconditional love and good works. So when we gather together we are going to be looking around and when we realize that body part who is normally here hasn't been here in two or three weeks, what are we going to do? We're going to look for them. Why? Not because it's what we do but it's who we are and what we do reflects who we are.

Now, if you are not drawing near, you're not holding fast your confession, and you're not even thinking about your participation in the body of Christ it's possible you could have this negative reaction. And what is that? You go on sinning deliberately.

Now, if you and I were in this assembly hearing this message from the Greek preacher when he started this sentence he wouldn't have "if we go on sinning deliberately." They would have said deliberately first! See, the Greeks could do what we can't do in English. They can put the word of emphasis first in the sentence because the sentence doesn't have to be smooth. I got a lot of papers back with red marks on them when I was growing up because my English wasn't smooth. You did too, right? I'll never forget when I was preaching early on at Hardin downtown and one of the English teachers in one of the local schools came up to me and said, "That was a perfect sermon." And I knew she wasn't talking about theologically. She was talking about grammatically it was perfect and I was so excited!

Catch this! Deliberately! You know what the word deliberately means. It means you intentionally did something. You thought about it before you did it. It was a premeditated act. It was intentional. If we go on sinning. Do you see this? The ESV is translating a present tense verb. Therefore, it puts it in the present tense. He's not saying if we occasionally commit an act of sin but if we deliberately go on sinning. What's going on here in particular? There are some who have come into the church from a Jewish background and now persecution is falling upon the church. It isn't going exactly the way they thought it was going to go so they're thinking about going back to their old way of living.

Do you know what we're learning in the book of Hebrews? This young Jewish preacher comes at the gospel differently than the Apostle Paul did. The Apostle Paul talks about having that moment of faith where you're justified and made right with God and you're not justified by works. This young Jewish preacher being a pastor has seen a lot of people make that statement of faith and profess faith but it not issue into the possession of faith. So here is what we learned from Hebrews to compliment Paul- if you have a moment of saving faith it always issues into a life of faith and faithfulness. If your moment of saving faith does not issue into a life change and a life of faith where you live out the gospel then you never had a moment of saving faith. And do you know what it's possible to do? It's possible to come into the assembly. When we heard what he said in Hebrews chapter six, didn't it sound like those people were in? But then he told them they were turning away and if they ever turned away they could

never come back because they you would have to put Jesus on the cross again and he's not going to do that. Do you remember in earlier chapters he told them to check out their hearts to see if they had an evil heart of unbelief? Do you remember how he told this group of Jewish believers that many came out of Egypt but they didn't all go in?

See, this sin cannot be committed by a pagan. It can only be committed by those who come under the preaching of the true gospel. Having received the knowledge of the truth is the word, "epignosis." It's not just knowledge as the ESV says, but FULL knowledge, complete knowledge. Here is what this young preacher believes. He believes there are people sitting under his preaching in his church who fully know Jesus is better than the angels, Jesus is greater than Moses, and Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek not Aaron. Therefore, he's a king priest. When he offered himself as the high priest he went into the very tabernacle in heaven and offered his blood in the presence of God and when he made that once for all offering it perfected forever those who he is sanctifying. And he took his seat at the right hand throne of God and he is right there now offering mercy and grace to any of us who will come to the throne of grace boldly. But, here is what he knows. He knows there is already some who've received that knowledge, they've left the church, and they're going back into their old ways. Do you know what it says? There no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

I want you to hear me. I've seen people do this. I've experienced that as a pastor with people. You come into the church, you make your profession, but you never possess it. Then, the next thing you know, you're former life is calling you and tempting you. Then you make the decision to turn from Christ and go back to sin and when you do you no longer have a sacrifice for sins once you turn away from Christ. We're not talking about the occasional slip up and sinning here. We're talking about you making the choice to go back to your old lifestyle, to embrace sin, to be selfish, and to put yourself first. When you do that you move away from Christ and you move away from his church. Understand this, there is never, ever again a sacrifice that can deal with sin because you've rejected Christ.

You've been warned. What lies ahead? Judgement with fire. Can I warn you? It's not going to be good. Yes, I have sped before in a construction zone when I shouldn't have but I didn't get caught. You will not escape this life and not get caught.

If I can be honest with you here, I don't think this preacher is out in left field and I don't think he's contradicting the Apostle Paul at all. I think he's mirroring this guy named Jesus. Do you know what Jesus taught us? He taught us that the kingdom of heaven was like a farmer who went out to sow seed. Some of the seed fell on the hard soil, some of it fell on rocky soil, some of it fell on thorny soil, and some of it fell on good soil. The disciples didn't get it so they asked him for his interpretation and he interpreted it.

Don't you wish he would have interpreted every one of the parables? There is no debate here, right? The first guy hears the gospel but it falls on a hard heart and he never receives it. The seed doesn't sprout. That guy is lost. Does everyone agree? That last guy, the good soil produces 30 fold, 60 fold, 100 fold, he is a believer. Does everyone agree? What do you do about those middle two guys or girls? The seed in the rocky soil sprouts. There is germination. A plant appears but then the drought comes and when the drought appears because there is no root they never produce fruit. There are a lot of people who come to church, make a profession, and look like believers but then that happens. There is no fruit and in my opinion that person is not a believer. The person who is like the seed in the weedy soil receives the gospel. Supposedly life appears and the next thing you know, everything around you chokes out your spiritual life. It's really easy to be this believer in America. You make your profession of faith and then all of a sudden you start getting blessed. The next thing you know, all of these blessings choke out your spiritual life and you're now living a life all about you. There is no spiritual fruit in your life at all. That person is not a believer.

In that parable there is just one person who is a believer and that's the good soil person. Please understand that there could be many of us here this morning who have made a profession of faith but do not actually possess faith and we need to be careful because there is a danger ahead if

we ever decide to go back to living the life we used to live instead of the Christian life.

Jesus went on to tell another parable about a farmer who sowed his wheat in his field. Then his enemy, his neighbor who didn't like him, came in and sowed tares. The servants went to the farmer and said... *Hey, we have tares now. Do you want us to tear them out?...* He said... *No, let's wait until harvest...* The disciples again asked Jesus what this meant. Jesus told the disciples this... *God is going to sow his children in the kingdom and Satan is going to sow his children among the children and they're going to look a whole lot alike. I'm not putting it in your hands to make the determination of which one is a tare and which one is a wheat. I want you to let them grow to the harvest because when the harvest comes we're going to trust God. Do you know what he's going to do? He's going to harvest his children and put them in the kingdom. Do you know what he's going to do with the tares? He's going to cast them into a lake of fire and they're going to be burned forever and ever and ever...* Can you imagine that? Can you imagine having a life that makes you almost look like you're a believer but instead of entering into eternity with God you enter into eternal separation from God and you spend eternity in a lake of fire forever and ever and ever?

He talks about a big fish net that got cast and caught some good fish and some bad fish. Again, what happened to the good fish? They went to be with God. What happened to the bad fish? They got cast into a place of everlasting punishment.

Do you remember Jesus talking about when the day of judgement comes he will put the sheep on one side and the goats on the other side? What's going to happen to the goats? They're going to go to a place that was prepared for the devil and his angels. Can you imagine that? Hell was not prepared just for unbelievers. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. Someone who turns from the gospel back to a sinful lifestyle will spend eternity with Satan and his angels forever and ever and ever in an eternal lake of fire.

Jesus talked about two men who died. One was poor and he trusted in God and he woke up in Abraham's bosom because the angels carried him

there. The rich man who trusted in riches woke up in a place of torment and he cried out for just a drop of water. He was told no.

The last book of the New Testament, the book of Revelation, the revelation of Jesus to John, his servant, pictures at the end of time a great white throne of judgement. All of humanity stands, the books are opened, and we are judged according to the books. Then the books open the Lamb's book of life where the names were written in it before the foundation of the world. If your name is not in that book you will be separated from God forever and ever and ever and you will go to a place of eternal punishment where the fire is not quenched. You've been warned this morning. If you've sat under the preaching of the gospel and you've received the full knowledge of the truth, if you go back, if you forsake Christ and his church and go back to your previous lifestyle of being selfish and sinful, there is no longer a sacrifice for your sins. All that awaits you is judgement; a fiery judgement.

Now he's going to give us an argument to show that this is just of God to do. Because his audience is Jewish he takes them back to the law and reminds them that if someone set aside the law of Moses meaning they intentionally decided to sin there was no sacrifice for intentional sin. You realize that, right? It was just for unintentional sin. Then it said that you are judged without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. So if two or three people testified that you intentionally broke God's law you forfeited your life. You were cut off from God's people. You physically died. Wow.

Are you ready for the next verse? Verse 29 says, "How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one..." Can I ask this? How many of you today believe there are crimes that are committed against certain people that death is proper? Yes, we believe that, right? I do. Now, here's the argument. If breaking the law according to Moses brings physical death what do you think is going to happen? How much worse is it going to be for "the one has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?" When you come under the preaching of the gospel and you know the truth and you think you possess faith but you're just professing faith and you turn back and go back to

living for your own self, a lifestyle of sin, here is what you're doing. You're trampling under your feet the Son of God.

I don't have to spend a lot of time here because we all know this especially if you were raised on the east side of Calloway County. There were a few times where I heard somebody talk about what somebody else did to them and I would look at that person and say, "Why did you let them walk all over you like that?" Have you ever heard that expression? Have you ever asked somebody that? Have any of you ever let somebody walk all over you?

Do you hear what the preacher is saying to this church? If you go back you're walking all over the Son of God. He doesn't call him Jesus. He doesn't call him the high priest. He doesn't call him the mediator. He doesn't call him the Messiah. He calls him who he is in his truest nature. He's the second person of the triune Godhead and when you went back, when you had a friend go back, when that church member left, they trampled under their foot God's Son. They walked all over God's Son. His Son, who he gave because he so loved the world that He put Him on that tree and put all of our sin on Him, you just walked all over Him and you profane the blood of the covenant. I believe the King James Version says makes unholy the blood of the covenant. Unholy and profane literally means this- to make common.

See, in the biblical world you had things that were holy and things that were unholy but to be unholy didn't mean it was sinful necessarily. It just meant it was common. So when you who have received the full knowledge of truth decide to go back and live in your prior state, here is what you're saying- the blood that was offered on the cross is no different than any other blood that was offered. It's no different than the blood of the bulls and the goats. It's just a common thing. You know, if that is your attitude I would never show up to take the Lord's Supper. Do you know what we do when we take the Lord's Supper? We hold a little cup in our hand and we're reminded of what Jesus said when he said it was his blood of the new covenant which was shed for many for the omissions of sin and he said he would not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the day he drinks it new with us again in his father's kingdom. It's because we think that blood's holy that many of us choose to come back on a Sunday night

service and honor him. It's not common. It's not unholy to us; it's holy. It's the blood of the new covenant not a conditional covenant but an unconditional covenant. It's not a covenant where the laws are written on tablets of stone but they're written on our hearts. It's not a covenant where we try. It's a covenant where we trust and we become God's children and we live this out. It's because of the blood.

Then, he adds this tag, "by which he was sanctified." Now, I'm not going to do what many want to do here and that is stop and argue with you. There are many people who, in reading this letter want to say... *ok, for all of you churches who believe in the security of the believer, see this tells you that you're not secure...* Then the other side always chirps in and says... *yes, you are secure so you can still commit this sin and go back to a lifestyle of sin but because you've been sanctified you're still saved and will spend eternity with God forever and ever in heaven...* We're not going to go there. You know I believe in the eternal security of a believer. You know this writer has been telling us that Jesus offered a once and for all sacrifice that sanctified forever those who are being sanctified. So let's be careful here. In the context I don't think you can read into this that the writer is believing this person was actually sanctified by what he's talking about. It's the blood of the covenant that does offer sanctification to a person and when you reject Christ you're rejecting the very blood that would've sanctified you and that you're sanctified by. When you go back you reject Christ.

Listen to me. When you come up with that fancy little argument in your mind of why you're not assembling with the church you are rejecting Christ. Participation in the church and participation in Christ are together. Yes, a believer can commit an act of sin, be convicted by the Holy Spirit, repent of it, and get victory over it but he cannot ever, ever, ever go back into a sinful lifestyle because if you have a true moment of saving faith it issues into a life of faithfulness.

Have any of you ever been insulted? Some translations say "insulted the spirit of grace" but this Greek word takes it a step further. It means you were insulted to the point of rage. The Holy Spirit is outraged. The Holy Spirit cannot believe that someone who has come under the full knowledge

of the truth is now making the decision deliberately to go back and he is outraged.

Can I just say this? I love the Holy Spirit. I love him. I would have never came to Christ if it was not for the Holy Spirit of God. I sat under some sermons that I'm not entirely sure were biblical but they pointed me to Jesus and there was a day on March 24, 1974, under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit convicting me, opening my eyes to the truth, that I was a sinner and he brought me to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Can I be honest with you? Yes, I get tempted and if I ever give in to those temptations I either have to quench or grieve the Holy Spirit because he is right there with me.

Are you listening to this? If you deliberately make that choice to go back he is outraged at you. Outraged! This is why the gospel Jesus taught that there is only one sin that is unforgiveable. What is that sin? Blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. So do you know what it is possible to do? It's possible to not recognize who he is and actually give him credit for being somebody he's not- Satan. Jesus said if you ever commit this sin it can never be forgiven. Wow. Not only is there not a sacrifice you can come to, but there is no one to bring you to the truth of who you are and what your need is so all that awaits you is judgement. Again, can I be honest with you? If you're going to choose to do this I'd head for the mountains too on the weekend. I'd grab all the gusto I could get. I'd try to get a lot of this stuff legalized so that I could live it up because I need to enjoy the next 20 or 30 years I have because once this life is over I face the judgement of God and I'm going to be separated from him forever and ever and ever.

And this warning ends this way, "For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."" Now, I want to make sure you understand this. There should never be a time in your heart or in your mind when you want to make someone pay for what they did to you. So if you've been there, repent of that. There is only one person who has the right for vengeance and that's God. Sometimes the reason we want vengeance is because we don't believe that anybody is going to avenge us but the one who is going to avenge us is God and he

says, "I will repay." So when you choose not to avenge, want somebody to get what they deserve, you are putting them in the hand of God.

Now, can I warn you? You don't want to do what God reserves for him to do, but here is what you can trust- God is going to make sinners pay. That person who received the knowledge of truth was in the church assembly. Guess where God's judgement is going to begin? It's going to begin in his house. It's going to begin with his people. Some of the people who say they're in his house aren't really in his house but one day it's going to be clear who is and who isn't. I just want to warn you. It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God. Trust me! You do not want to stand before God and have rejected what he did for you on the cross with his Son. See, it's not a profession of faith that saves. It's the possession of faith that saves. So this morning we don't look back on what we did on March 24th, 1974, for the assurance of salvation. We look within right now... *Do I have faith? Has my faith brought to me a new life and a new nature? Yes, I'm tempted to sin but I'm not going back to that sinful lifestyle and as a matter of fact, every time I try... YUCK!...* But, if you do go back and you choose that there is no hope. There is no sacrifice. You're on your own and you're going to pay. How will you pay? Eternal separation from God forever and ever and ever. God is going to let you try to do what you want to do and that's pay him back. You can't unless you spend eternity separated from him forever and ever.

We're going to live 2026 under this warning. Next week we're going to learn that the preacher believed most of us weren't going to go back. We're going to keep going forward but don't dismiss this under the doctrine of the security of the believer. You may not be a real believer and when that thing happens that happens and you turn, that thing just happened to reveal who you really were. It revealed you were a professor but not a possessor of saving faith.

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