

Title: The Problem of Willful Sin

Text: Hebrews 10:26-31

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Hebrews chapter 10. There are notes in your bulletin; and I would encourage you to use them as we study together. Hebrews is a book written to Jewish believers, primarily. Yet, the message is universal. It is for all believers. Especially for those who seek to develop their spiritual lives in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

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In Hebrews chapter 10 starting with Vs 26 we have the third great warning passage. *In This Book* We have looked at two of them. And this is the third one. These warning passages cause some difficulty to believers as to what they mean and what they are teaching....So, follow along closely as we study this passage.

Hebrews, chapter 10 beginning at verse 26... *On The Subject of: THE PROBLEM OF WILLFUL SIN*

-(Read Hebrews 10:26-31)

Prayer

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(1c) As we look at the problem of willful sin, first of all, what is meant by the term "WILLFUL SIN"? *What are we talking about?*

In Vs 26, please notice the little word "FOR"....This word "for" is connecting this passage with the context of chapter 10. It is a very serious mistake to read these verses apart from what precedes it. What precedes these verses deals with the death of Jesus Christ for our sins. Jesus is the only payment for anyone's sins. And all of our sins have been paid for by Jesus Christ. And then Paul says: "FOR, IF WE GO ON SINNING WILLFULLY."...

So, on the bases of the content, "THE SINNING WILFULLY" is a rejection of the complete and final sacrifice of Jesus Christ for sin. You see, that is the content of chapter 10. We are not talking about the little sins that we all commit. "THE WILLFUL SIN" that is under discussion is "THE REJECTION OF Jesus Christ as the final and complete sacrifice for all of our sins..."

Now, please remember ~~this~~ *that*....It is very important in understanding this passage. *And also, because we live in a time when people really believe that there are many roads to God - and Jesus is just one way.*

Who are The "We" of Vs 26

(2E) <sup>O.K. records</sup> ~~Now~~, who are the people under discussion?.....Are they believers or are they ~~not~~ believers?....What is the relationship of those under discussion to Jesus christ?....Vs 26 tells us two things about these folks...

(1F) The first is: that there is a pattern of deliberate sinning in their lives

In Vs 26, please notice the pattern. "IF WE GO ON SINNING WILLFULLY"...In the Greek text, the idea is continuous sinning. It is a constant pattern of sin. And it ~~would have to refer~~ to something that was before ~~salvation~~; and it is now continuing in their lives. A PATTERN OF DELIBERATE SINNING. ~~rejection~~ <sup>rejection</sup>

(2F) Secondly, <sup>There</sup> this is not only a pattern of deliberate sinning. But, there was a point that they received <sup>The Gospel Truth</sup> ~~salvation~~ The Bible says in Vs 26: "IF WE GO ON SINNING WILLFULLY AFTER RECEIVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."

The little phrase "AFTER RECEIVING" is in the Aorist tense in Greek. The Aorist tense always means a point in time. In other words...there was a point in time when they received the truth.

The word "knowledge" is not referring to a few simple facts about Christ. The word "knowledge" is the full, complete, mature and perfect knowledge. It is always used of those who have heard and who have understood the Gospel message.

and The word "received" means "having understood and taken as part of your life the truth."

So, the text is saying that those under discussion..."THE WE" of this passage...are people who have a pattern of deliberate sinning in their life; and have evidenced at some point in their life that they understood the full knowledge of the truth. Meaning by that: the truth about Christ and his sacrifice for sin. They have heard the truth; and yet, they continue a pattern of sin. And that pattern of sin is the rejection of Jesus Christ as the only sacrifice for their sin.

Therefore, these verse teach the seriousness of God's judgment on people who having heard the message of salvation, <sup>and yet</sup> still reject the atonement of Jesus Christ. And it is teaching God's judgement upon them....

You see, dear friends, you can not go on egnoring God's love for you. You cannot continue to say "tomorrow I will accept Chrïst as my saviour!" You cannot continue to hope that someday because of your GOOD DEEDS, God will over look your rejection of the atonement. He will not over look it. For he is a God of holiness and justice. As well as a God of mercy and love. He cannot over look sin. And God treats it very serious when someone rejects and refuses His love in Chrïst Jesus as the only complete and final sacrifice for sin. Dear friends, it is a very serious matter and that is why I draw your attention to this portion of scripture. This is God's Word. This is God's truth.

(3E) Now, if a person chooses to reject Christ, notice the consequences of that rejection in Vs 26 and 27 .

(1F) First of all, as to the provision of salvation. Vs 26 says: "There no longer remains a sacrifice for sins."

The first result that God brings to one who rejects the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins is: "THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR YOU." In terms of God provision for salvation, in terms of that, if you reject Jesus, there is no other way to receive God's mercy and love *and God's salvation*

*and* Friends, that is a pretty powerful statement. It means that if you reject Christ as your saviour, there is no other way to obtain salvation *and eternal life*

Now, some people think and teach that there are many roads to heaven. But that is just not true. Jesus said: "IAM THE WAY"...The only way to receive the mercy and love of the Father is through the acceptance of Christ and his death on the cross for the remission of sin...NO OTHER WAY....

~~And~~ *The statement, they believe in a God* I find so many who believe that because of their works or what they do or their good deeds ...that all of this will add points to their credit and they can earn favor with God and work their way to heaven. That, my friends, is rejecting the final sacrifice of God's son on the cross. And so many "false' ideas are built on the concept of "WHAT I DO" in order to achieve God's blessings and favor.

Oh, listen, there is nothing you and I can do to achieve God's favor.... EXCEPT...TO BELIEVE AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS ALREADY PAID FOR OUR SINS.....

You cannot save yourself. The only way you can find eternal life and forgiveness is by looking to Jesus on the cross. There is no other solution. (2F) The second result that I notice, here, according to Vs 27 deals with the PUNISHMENT we would receive. Vs 27 says: "But a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries."

This judgment is described in two ways according to Vs 27. (1G) First, it is described as "a certain terrifying expectation of judgment."

Do you know what is awaiting people who reject the sacrifice of Christ?.. Do you really know? The Bible says: "THERE IS A CERTAIN TERRIFYING EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT."

Daniel Webster once said that the greatest thought that ever crossed his mind was "his individual accountability to a God that does exist."

In our good moments, when all is going well, and there are no problems, and we are enjoying the good life, we believe that this isn't really going to happen. There will be no judgement.

And yet, in some moment of crisis when all that we put our hope in falls apart...or, we face death. At such a moment we <sup>have that</sup> awful feeling inside that maybe, just maybe, the Bible is true. That, maybe, there is a God. And maybe there is judgment and I will have to face it. ~~WHAT A SAD WAY TO LIVE.....~~ WHAT A SAD WAY TO LIVE..... [Jesus said that it was dangerous to play the odds."What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and yet, he loses his soul." WHAT IS THE PROFIT, DEAR FRIENDS? Jesus said not to fear him who can kill the body. But fear him who can cast the body and soul into everlasting fire.

The Bible teaches the judgment of God. And if you reject the mercy and love of Christ there is no hope for you, <sup>only</sup> except a certain terrifying expectation of judgment. Chapter 9 verse 27 of Hebrews says that it is appointed for man to die once, and after this comes the judgment.

(2G) The second thing that describes this punishment or judgment in Vs 27 is the phrase "THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES."

The word "adversaries" describes a person who total rejects the Gospel. It refers to one who is hostile towards <sup>Jesus</sup> ~~us~~. And the Bible says "the fury of a fire is about to eat them alive.....That is the meaning of the Greek text.

You know, folks don't like to talk about this. But listen, <sup>dear</sup> friends, this is a very serious matter. And here we have a discription of HELL. In fact, did you know that Jesus spoke more about Hell than he did about heaven? Jesus talked about <sup>hell as an</sup> ~~an~~ everlasting fire where the flames, never died and the heat increased daily, and where there is torment forever. ~~That is the message of Jesus Christ~~ <sup>you get it</sup>

I think it is easy, also, for christians who love <sup>Jesus</sup> God, to forget that that judgment is awaiting those who refuse to accept Christ. Paul spoke of <sup>this</sup> ~~it~~ as the terror of the Lord, and our need to persuade <sup>FOLKS</sup> ~~men~~ to repent and to turn to God. For one day, God will ~~release~~ release his judgment against ~~the unbelievers~~ unbelievers and those who reject Christ as Saviour and Lord. The Bible teaches this. [ And we ought to believe it. { And unless we fall down and cry for the mercy of God, unless we seek God's forgiveness through the Cross of Jesus Christ, THERE IS NO HOPE. And the Bible tells us that there is <sup>only</sup> the fury of a fire which will torment those who reject Christ in a place called Hell.... Oh listen, my friends, God is a God of justice. But, he is also a God of love. And because of that love he has provided a way of escape through Jesus Christ. God does not desire that any should perish. Therefore, he sent his son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have every lasting life....(Praise the Lord)...

But, <sup>The point is that</sup> ~~my~~ friends, you cannot continue in a pattern of sin and rejection of Christ and hope to escape what God says in His Word is coming. YOU CANNOT. In the book of Revelation chapter 20:15 we read "that whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the like of fire."

People often ask: "Do you believe that Hell is a <sup>literal</sup> lake of fire?"....Well, I don't know what it is. But, I do know this. That a symbol is always less in intensity than that which it represents. So, if Hell is not a literal lake of fire, then God only knows how severe it is. [ And <sup>Frankly</sup> I want no part of it.

The Bible teaches and warns that you cannot continue to refuse to accept God's mercy and love in Jesus and then hope to miss God's judgment. YOU CANNOT DO IT. There will be no second chance after death. When <sup>physical</sup> death comes your eternal life is sealed.

Or, when Jesus Christ comes in all his glory, you are going to see judgment like you have never seen before. The Bible <sup>also</sup> teaches <sup>that one day</sup> ~~that after the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ~~, God is going to set up a great white throne judgment. And all unbelievers, whether small or great in life, it makes no difference, whether rich or poor, all unbelievers will stand before God. And the Bible says that the books will be opened. ( I believe that God is recording all the sins and hostile and rebellion in the life of people. <sup>In those Books</sup> And all those books are going to be opened. And the Bible says that the deeds of the unbelievers are going to be judged. And based on that verse, <sup>Rev</sup> I believe that there is going to be degrees of punishment in Hell. I believe our Lord taught that also.

<sup>and</sup> ~~but~~, it says that <sup>the</sup> book of life was opened and those who were not found written there, were cast into the lake of fire <sup>for all eternity</sup>

I cannot help but read that passage and feel concern about <sup>our</sup> ~~my~~ lack of witnessing. I don't know where you stand, but ~~this passage is really~~ ~~discouraging us~~. Don't ever fall into the trap of believing that the God of love and mercy will ever excuss or forget rejection of his only provision of salvation. If people do not accept Jesus Christ as their saviour and Lord, the only thing awaiting them is "THE CERTAIN TERRIFYING EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT FROM A HOLY God. AND THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME ALL WHO REJECT JESUS. That is the message of God in these verses....

(2D) Then in Verses 28 and 29; and in verses 30-31, Paul gives us two examples

(1E) The first example comes from the Old Testament. The breaking of the Law of Moses resulted in punishment and death. In Vs 29 we read: "How much severer punishment do you think He will deserve who has trampled under foot 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 ~~the~~ Grace?"

(2E) And the second example comes from the scripture itself.

(Read Vs 30-31)

And the point of Vs 30 <sup>is</sup> is that you cannot escape judgment. You cannot get away with rejecting Jesus Christ as your saviour. For God will judge the unbeliever. And my unbelieving friend, God will judge every sin that you

have ever committed. Every single sin that you have ever committed, God will bring to your remembrance and you will be judged for them. (quote vs 31)

<sup>Now</sup> Also, my christian friends, did you know that your sins, as a believer, comes under the law of this verse? You say, Wait a minute Pastor, in what way is my sin being judged?"....ANSWER:....Every last sin that you have ever committed or will commit has been judged upon the cross when Jesus died for you. So, don't ever get the idea that God somehow over looks your sin. That your sin is so special that God over looks it. Don't you believe that. God has not overlooked anybodies sin. At the cross of Christ, God juged the sin of all who would accept him. <sup>That is why the cross is so important</sup> The Bible says that all the wrath of God was poured but on Jesus. Jesus bore the judgment of your sin and mine when he died on the cross. It was so severe that in that hour of separation Jesus cried out: "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME."

All the anguish and torment of that moment on the cross, Jesus bore all our sins in his own body. He bore the results of the judgment and wrath of God on sin.

I sometimes believe we forget this simple, yet, wonderful truth. We look at the cross and the death of Jesus as we would look at the death of any other person. Oh, listen, the death of Jesus was not like the death of any other <sup>person</sup>. Jesus died not only for the remission of sin, but also to satisfy the wrath and judgment of God upon those sins. YOU TALK ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD FOR YOU AND FOR ME.....WOW...IT BLOWS MY MIND....

When I think about what I deserve, when I think about my sins <sup>and</sup> and how I <sup>am</sup> reject God, and yet, God loves me. He loved me so much that he sent His Son to die for my sins and to receive my punishment. <sup>Dear friend</sup> When I <sup>got</sup> awloled of this tremendous truth and the fact that God loved me before the foundations of the world....HOW CAN I REFUSE TO ACCEPT <sup>Christ</sup> HIM AS MY LORD AND SAVIOUR....

Oh, my friends, how can you refuse God's love in Jesus Christ? How can your refuse to accept Him as your saviour?.... *How Can you refuse to Bring your life into conformity to His?*

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You know, I am so glad that these verse do not apply to me. I am so thankful that I listened to the Holy Spirit when He called my name. I am so thankful that my name is written in the Book of life. And that one day when God calls me home, or he comes in glory, I shall receive the blessed reward prepared for those who have trusted Him.

Are you trusting ~~God~~ <sup>Jesus</sup> for your salvation? Are you? Is Jesus the Lord and Saviour of your life? <sup>Is He on the Throne of your Life?</sup>

Or, are you one who as heard the truth and yet, you go on sinning willfully and continue to reject the truth? <sup>Don't do that!</sup>

Accept Christ today!...You ask: HOW DO I DO THAT?.....Acknowledge your sin and ask Jesus to forgive you and to come into your life.

And you know...HE WILL...."If any one hears my voice and opens the door of his life, I will come into him and will dine with him and he with me."

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sin and cleans us from all unrighteousness.

Will you accept Christ?....Right now, ask Him to come into your life?....

SHALL WE PRAY