

The Warning against Willful Sin

Hebrews 10:26-39

INTRODUCTION

- First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come and preach God's Word here tonight.

- My topic for tonight is taken from Hebrews 10:26-39

- Immediately following the encouraging words to draw near to God and to hold fast the confession of our hope we find a warning given by the Hebrew writer...
 - It's a strict warning against willful sin
 - It addresses one reaching a dreadful condition in which...
 - "There no longer remains a sacrifice for sins..."
 - There is "a certain fearful expectation of judgment and fiery indignation"

- As we look closer into this warning tonight we have some questions to ask
 - (QUESTION #1) IS THIS A WARNING FOR CHRISTIANS?
 - There are some who will say no...
 - It is their belief that once saved, always saved.
 - Who further state that true Christians...
 - Cannot sin to the point where they might be lost
 - And even if they do sin to the point of being lost
 - God will intervene and take their life to prevent it from happening
 - (QUESTION #2) DOES THE BIBLE TEACH "ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED"?
 - Let me tell you what it does teach...
 - It teaches that those who remain faithful (Revelation 2:10) have security in their hope of salvation

- It also teaches that a “believer” can become an “unbeliever”
 - And it’s at this point when that person should fear for their salvation
 - Because your hope is now in jeopardy!!!
 - **Hebrews 3:12-14**, *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,”*

➤ **READ along with me in **Hebrews 10:26-39****

➤ Church— Willful sin is a purposeful choice to sin...

- Even though you know God is against it!
- Even though you know you shouldn’t do it!
- And it means you are putting your will above that of God’s will

➤ Parents sometime see this in their own children

- They’re sometimes disobedient because they forgot...
- Or the enticement of doing something they know they shouldn’t do is just too strong – Mary-Emma will say, “It was an accident.”
- But there are those times when the child just looks the parent straight in the eye and dares the parent to stop them.
 - Church— that’s willful disobedience!
 - The child acts as if they don’t have a care in the world that the parent has said no or stop or that it’s wrong
 - The child actually thinks they know better and that they’re in control of the situation

- With the concern for our topic tonight...
 - People do that very same thing with God.
 - **Hebrews 10: 26-27**, “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”
 - This isn’t speaking of sins done in ignorance
 - This is not speaking about a person’s will to not sin being worn down
 - THIS IS SPEAKING ABOUT A PERSON WHO KNOWS RIGHT FROM WRONG!
 - WHO ON PURPOSE CHOOSES THE WRONG!
 - AND THEN DARES GOD TO STOP HIM!

DISCUSSION

- I don’t want you to take my word for it tonight – I want you and I to search the scriptures tonight to see what the Word teaches on the subject at hand

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SIN WILLFULLY?

- A. In essence it means that a person has learned and obeyed the truth but...
 - a. In spite of knowing the truth...
 - i. The person has purposefully decided not to heed it anymore in their life
 - ii. They have turned away from it.
 - b. This could be in regard to...
 - i. A personal addiction in someone’s life
 - ii. It could be in regard to disobeying the laws of the land
 - iii. It could be in regard to sexual immorality or false worship
 - c. In context of our topic...
 - i. It is specifically in regard to those who have simply stopped coming to the regular assembling of the saints – **Hebrews 10:25**

- ii. They stopped even when they knew it was the right thing to do.
- d. Remember James admonition...
 - i. **James 4:17**, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin."
- e. In translation the Greek states that it's a repeated action
 - i. It implies that it's not just a **single act** of sin but a **continued state** of sin
 - 1. Let's face it church – we all have moments of weakness or times when we sin ignorantly
 - a. **I John 1:8-10**, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."
 - 2. It's not "**inadvertent sin**" but **deliberate sin** that's under consideration in this passage of scripture
 - a. It's a state in which one knows the truth
 - b. Yet deliberately and continuously persists in sin!
- f. Now we have got to ask ourselves...
 - i. Can a true Christian reach that point – Can I reach that point?
 - 1. The answer is – YES!
 - ii. Note the Hebrew writer's use of the pronoun "we"
 - 1. He includes himself in this warning
 - 2. Christian – take heed lest you also fall
 - 3. This is a serious matter we're dealing with and it's allowing satan to rip the Lord's Body apart
 - iii. Don't you know when you became a Christian you were sanctified by the blood of Jesus?
 - 1. **Hebrews 10:29**, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant **by which he was sanctified** a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"

- So why this warning in Hebrews?
 - Surely if God's inspired Word warns us...
 - There must be consequences of this "willful sin"

II. CONSEQUENCES OF WILLFUL SIN

A. There no longer remains a sacrifice for sin...

- a. What sacrifice?
 - i. THE SACRIFICE OF THE CHRIST!**
- b. What sacrifice no longer remains?
 - i. THE SACRIFICE OF THE CHRIST!**

B. John comments on this in **I John 1:6-7**

- a. **I John 1:6-7**, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- b. Think about what **Hebrews 10:26(b)** is saying and the correlation with **I John 1:6-7** tell us
 - i. The precious blood that Jesus willingly spilled for our sins is no longer effectual for us
 - ii. It will no longer cover our sins if we abandon what we know to be true
 - iii. Therefore the sacrifice of Jesus is no longer effective for our sins
- c. Why?
 - i. Because we have **deliberately chosen** to see the sacrifice and understand it...
 1. To look upon and depend upon Jesus for our everything
 2. And then just as the Sanhedrin and the high priests and many others...

- a. We deliberately choose to turn our backs on Jesus
- b. We deliberately choose to turn our back on God

C. **Hebrews 10:27**, "...a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."

- a. If one continues in the state of rejecting the truth
 - i. Then that one can fully expect God to punish them just as He would someone who'd never obeyed the truth.
 - ii. **II Thessalonians 1:8**, "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

b. This judgment is...

i. A judgment involving fire

1. Torment as spoken of in **Revelation 21:8**, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

ii. A judgment involving the wrath of God

1. **Romans 2:5-11**, "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who "will render to each one according to his deeds": ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God."

iii. A judgment that will destroy

1. **Matthew 10:28**, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

D. Brethren – It is a **SERIOUS – SERIOUS – SERIOUS** business to understand God’s Word and then to leave it by consciously, deliberately, and willfully going back into living a worldly life as if God didn’t even exist!

E. Those things we just talked about are the consequences of our deliberate choice to turn our backs on the sacrifice of Jesus

a. In Hebrews, the writer is warning Christians

b. So we ask...

i. Is God going to bring this punishment on His children who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb?

ii. Evidently-- according to the scriptures He is...

III. IN **VERSES 28-31**, THE HEBREW WRITER GIVES THE EXPLANATION FOR PUNISHMENT OF WILLFUL SIN

A. What was required under the old law?

a. According to **Hebrews 10:28** – it was death without mercy?

b. This was the punishment for sin that was deliberate and open

i. One in which one rejected the Law of Moses

ii. It was a sin that was “open” therefore witnessed by two or more

c. While there was mercy for sins of weakness or ignorance...

i. Under the old law

ii. There was none of that for open and deliberate sin

B. What about the New Law – The new covenant we now live under?

a. Look to **Hebrews 10:29**

i. **Hebrews 10:29**, “Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the

Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"

- b. But what could be worse than a physical death?
 - i. **FIERY INDIGNATION!**
 - ii. **THE PLACE DESIGNED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS – HELL**
 - 1. A place devoid of light
 - 2. B/C it is devoid of God
- C. Why? Because the Christian has chosen to sin willfully!
- a. That person has-- **has trampled the Son of God underfoot**
 - i. The translation from the Greek denotes it as contempt of the most flagrant kind
 - ii. That person treats their Savior,
 - 1. The One who took a scourging for their sins
 - 2. The One who felt the pain and anguish of spikes through His flesh
 - 3. The One who willingly came down from heaven to be as mortal man
 - 4. The One who rose on the third day as He prophesied
 - 5. Those who deliberately, willingly turn back to their sinful lives have treated their King, their Savior like DIRT!
 - b. They have counted the precious blood He spilled a common thing!
 - c. They have insulted the Spirit of grace
 - d. Church two things we can take from this passage
 - i. 1). That a Christian can sin to the point of open rebellion against God
 - ii. 2). That punishment reserved for them is worse than death itself

D. But preacher – Isn't God a God of love, mercy, and grace?

- a. Of course He is
 - i. **I John 4:8**, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
- b. He is also a God of Justice
 - i. **Hebrews 10:30**, “For we know Him who said, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. And again, “*The LORD will judge His people.*”
- c. To whom much is given – much is required – (**Luke 12:47-48**)
 - i. To those who despise His love set themselves up to be recipients of His wrath – (**Romans 2:4-6**)
- d. Therefore as the Hebrew writer states...
 - i. **Hebrews 10:31**, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

IV. THAT’S ALL GOOD INFORMATION – BUT WHAT CAN WE DO TO AVOID THAT?

- A. The Hebrew writer gives us the instructions in **Verse’s 32-39**
 - a. We are to remember our early confidence
 - i. The writer refers to the days after they were first converted
 - 1. The term illuminated or enlightened refers to their baptism
 - 2. Friends, do you remember the feeling you had when you came out of the waters after being immersed and cleansed from your sins?
 - a. That feeling of joy and celebration
 - b. That feeling of a world of weight lifted off your shoulders
 - b. He asked them to also remember the suffering and trial and tribulation they had gone through
 - i. In which they “joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods”
 - ii. Knowing – feeling reassured that they had a far better and enduring possession in heaven.
 - c. It was a confidence that was not to be cast away but held onto

B. And we church – the Body of Christ...

- a. We desperately need today while it is still called day
- b. WE NEED TO REKINDLE THAT FIRE OF NEW FOUND FAITH
JUST LIKE WE HAD WHEN WE FIRST RESPONDED
 - i. WE NEED TO REKINDLE THAT FIRE IN OUR BONES
 - ii. WE MUST FEEL THAT DESIRE TO SERVE GOD AND
CONQUER THE EVIL THAT SO EASILY BESETS US

C. And we must endure to the end

- a. We must endure to receive the promise – **Hebrews 10:36**, “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”
 - i. For the Lord is coming – **Hebrews 10:37**, “For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.”
 - ii. And the just live by faith and we must not draw back – **Hebrews 10:38**, “Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

➤ And in the words of the Master...

- **Revelation 2:10**, “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

IN CLOSING

- Remember and rekindle the confidence you had when you first came to Christ
 - Endure to the end with the faith that saves

- May we never forget what we learned here tonight...

- We can fall from grace
 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God
 - And how much our sin cost the Savior and the Creator
- The Psalmist wrote...
- Psalm 37:23-24, “²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds *him with His hand.*”
 - In your lives be upheld by the Lord

INVITATION

- Are you willing to cast away heaven by turning your back on the sacrifice of the Savior?
- Are you prepared to trample under foot the blood of Christ and make His blood a common thing?
- Or are you willing to humbly admit your fault?

The choice is yours and the lesson is from God's word

Will you respond tonight as stand and sing a song of invitation?