



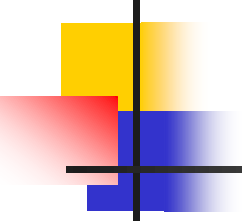
Something Better For Us

A Survey of Hebrews, Lesson #6

10:26-11:29

Jim Hoffman

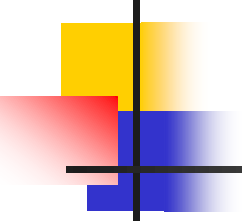
Hebrews 10:26-27



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. NKJV

- Willful rejection brings certain judgment. Rejecting the truth of the gospel is the worst of all possible sins.
- It is not a sin of ignorance, or a sin of omission, but to know the truth and to see the whole picture and then turn your back on it puts one in a place of no remedy.
- There remains no sacrifice for sins because the only suitable sacrifice that exists has been rejected.

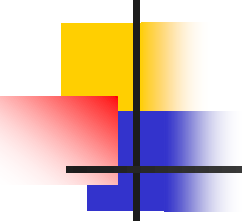
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- The sin spoken of here is called 'apostasy' and it has (2) parts.
 - You must have clear knowledge of the truth.
 - You must willfully reject it what was once so clear.
- Apostasy is to depart from a once held position in a downward direction.

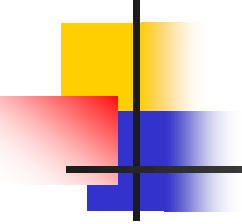
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- If you know who Jesus is and reject Him, judgment is certain. (far different from the 'are the heathen lost?')
- Those who deliberately turn their back on the only one who can save them seal their own fate.
- We all know someone who was once considered a brother or sister in the Lord who now has either no interest or has become antagonistic to the gospel. These would be apostates because they have left a position they once held.

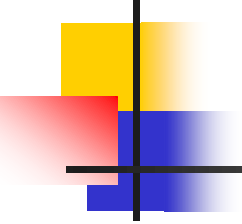
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- Apostates put themselves in a place of greater judgment. (Luke 12:47-48)
- If there are degrees of reward in heaven why would it seem so strange that there will be degrees of punishment in hell?
- If you believe that apostasy is the worst sin, then it follows that apostates will receive the worst punishment.

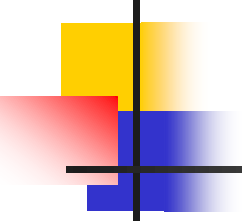
Hebrews 10:29



\ 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?' NKJV

- We need to see the seriousness of these charges against those who know the truth and reject it.
- It as though they have trampled the one who stood up for them; Jesus.
- It as though they have seen the blood of Christ as something less than the blood of animals.
- It as though they have slammed the door in the face of the Holy Spirit who has faithfully tried to convince them of their need.

Hebrews 10:29



\ 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?' NKJV

- Could it be that this verse describes what we call the unpardonable sin?
 - They know who Jesus is and what He did for them, but turn from it.
 - They reject the witness of the Holy Spirit as described in John 16:7-11

Heb 10:31

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. NKJV

- Within the context of the chapter it is clear that the 'fear' spoken of has to do with God's judgment of those who reject Him.
- However, believers too would do well to consider the awesome power and majesty of the living God and take care to honor Him.
- The fear of the Lord is intended to bring people to repentance; the lost and the saved alike.



Hebrews 10:32-39

'Press On'

- Remember what you've been through for Christ.
 - You've endured suffering
 - You've withstood ridicule
 - You've given up possessions



Hebrews 10:32-39

'Press On'

- Anticipate what is ahead.
 - There are sure rewards for faithfulness
 - There are promises to be realized
 - And it is all very close at hand.



Hebrews 10:38

'the just shall live by faith'

- The phrase was first given to us in Habakkuk 2:4
 - Repeated in Rom 1:17 where the emphasis is on 'the just'
 - Repeated on Gal 3:11 where the emphasis is on 'shall live'
 - Repeated in Heb 10:38 where the emphasis is on 'by faith'

Heb 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. NKJV

- Faith defined;
 - Substance; faith gives us all of the objective proof that we need.
 - Evidence; faith provides all of the evidence that we need.
 - Faith is believing what we have not seen and acting upon it as though we have seen what we hope for.

Heb 11:2

For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. NKJV

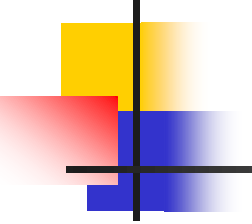
- Faith has always been effective for gaining standing with God.
- Of all of the things that Abraham could have been singled out for, he is particularly singled out in scripture for his faith.
- We, like the ancients in scripture, can obtain a good report if we will simply trust God.
- What is most amazing is that which the world sees as a weakness in our make-up, God sees as the best thing we have going for us.

Heb 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. NKJV

- Our faith makes us wiser than our teachers; it allows us to know that God created all things.
- Faith allows us to fully grasp that the things which we see are too complex to have come about by accident or on their own.
- A long running debate over creation versus evolution becomes a non issue when faith is invoked.

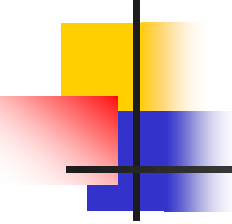
Faith and Works



"You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" NKJV (James 2:18)

- James tells us a lot about faith and works and the writer of Hebrews gives a number of examples.
- In Hebrews chapter 11, each time you read 'by faith' also take note that a verb always follows directly on it's heels.
- Simple conclusion; real faith always produces real works. (no works, no fruit, no faith)

Heb 11:4



By faith **Abel offered** to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. NKJV

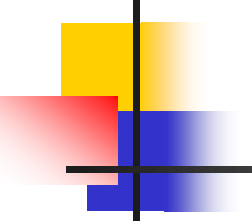
- More excellent sacrifice because he brought what God required, not what seemed right to him.
- It was not so much what he brought as it was what he believed that made the offering acceptable.
- Abel's simple act of faith still speaks to us today regarding simple obedience to what God has revealed.

Heb 11:5

5 By faith ***Enoch*** was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he ***pleased*** God. NKJV

- Enoch is one of (2) O.T. examples of what we now call a 'rapture'.
- A person of faith is walking along one day and suddenly, without having to pass through death, is ushered into the presence of God.
- When the apostle Paul wrote about a future event in I Thes 4:13-18 it was not without precedent.

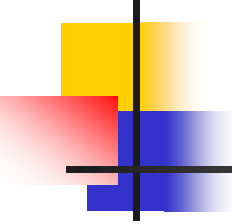
Heb 11:7



7 By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved** with godly fear, **prepared** an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. NKJV

- Noah believed God concerning what things that he had never seen or heard of.
- He held on to the word of God despite the fact that it took 120 years to come to pass.
- He stepped out in faith and did things that the world laughed at, and things that seemed weird, but he obeyed anyway.

Heb 11:8-10



By faith **Abraham obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

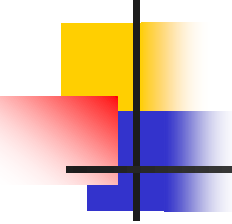
- Abraham got up and left his family and home without even knowing where he was going.
- He didn't know where he was going, but he knew who he was going with.
- He knew his destination was not an earthly one, but a heavenly one.

Heb 11:11

By faith **Sarah** herself also **received** strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. NKJV

- A 90 year old woman can get pregnant? Yes, when God is involved. (so can a virgin)
- Sarah gives us all hope; she knew the promise of God, didn't believe it and tried to 'help' God out, but God used her anyway.
- It wasn't what she **first** believed, it was what she **ultimately** believed.

Heb 11:24-26



By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. NKJV

- Moses looked at all that Egypt offered him and determined (by faith) that identification with Christ was the better offer.
- He looked at the two piles and said that what Egypt offered (power, position, and possessions) was tempting, but paled in comparison with the things that last.
- Surely he thought; that is a lot, but this (what is gained by faith) is so much more,



By Faith, By Faith, By Faith

- Chapter 11 tells us of so many faithful people and even tells us that the list is endless. (verse #32)
- The 'memorable' people are mentioned, but I am convinced that God remembers all of our acts of faith.
- Even today, we still don't fully 'get' it because we ascribe more virtue to works of ministry than we do to simple faith.
- We tell people how much we like their preaching, their teaching, their serving, etc, but when was the last time we commended someone for their great faith?

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. NKJV

- When will it sink in? God responds to our faith, not our abilities, not our gifts, and not our approach.
- For whatever reason, God is pleased when we simply believe Him.
- When we seek Him expecting to be rewarded by Him, He delights to pour out His blessings on us.

Hebrews 11:6

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- It is not the one who knows the most, but the one who believes the most that is great in His kingdom.
- In Matthew 18, Jesus tells us that the greatest citizens of the kingdom are those with the childlike faith.
- The world considers childlike faith gullible, but God considers it honorable.



Truths that Transform

- It is not who knows the most, but who believes the most.
- Those who deliberately turn their back on the only one who can save them seal their own fate.
- The just shall live by faith.
- No fruit, no works, no faith.