

072725

“Don’t Turn Back!”

Hebrews 10:26-31

Series: Christ Before Us #29

Bernard Bell

Background

In many parts of the world Christians are under intense pressure to compromise or even to renounce their faith in Jesus. There were periods of intense persecution against Christians during the Roman Empire. Some did renounce their faith, but many remained steadfast. Church history is full of Christians who were faithful unto death, refusing to renounce Jesus even in the face of intense pressure. The believers to whom Hebrews is addressed are suffering. Some might be wondering about renouncing their faith in Jesus. Five times the preacher addresses the risk of renunciation.

The conventional view has been that Hebrews is addressed to Jewish Christians, some of whom are tempted to renounce their faith in Jesus and the New Covenant, to return to their Jewish ways under the old covenant. Many interpreters now recognize that these warning passages are addressed also to Gentile Christians who might be thinking of abandoning their faith.

Today we come to the fourth warning passage (10:26-31).

Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:26-31

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Discussion Questions

Preparation

1. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
2. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
3. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

Sunday Questions:

1. What kind of sin is the sermon warning against in Hebrews 10:26–27?
2. Why does the sermon say “no sacrifice for sins is left” if someone turns away?
3. What are the three charges in verse 29 against someone who abandons their faith?
4. What does the sermon say can help prevent drifting or apostasy?
5. Why is it called “a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (v. 31)?
6. How does the sermon contrast Old and New Covenants in this warning?
7. Why is Christian community essential for persevering in faith?