

Jesus Is Better Hebrews 10:26-39

Intro

When I was 15 years old I was faced with a choice. I could choose to follow my desires or I could follow where God was calling. The reality was I was going where God called no matter what it was a choice between the easier way or the hard way. I chose to follow the path God had laid out for me. When I was 15 I acknowledged that God had called me to a vocation different from what my peers would do. I was called to lead, to lead followers of Christ to reach others and to grow closer to Him. It has been a long and difficult path. It has been and still is the most rewarding thing I have done.

Transition

We all face choices in life. Take that job or not, stay at this job or not, date this person, break up with that person, marry the hottest woman on the planet, move here, or stay there, etc. We make choices all day over and over again. But so often the most important choice we could make we ignore. Today I want to encourage you to make a choice. I want to encourage you to...

Sticky Statement: Choose Jesus!

It doesn't matter where you are in the whole Jesus thing. Still figuring it out, new believer, long time follower, choose Jesus!

Passage

26 For if we deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire about to consume the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:26-27

I have talked about there are passages that would be easier to skip over than to address, this is one of those passages.

We go verse by verse because it holds our teaching calendar accountable to teach all of Scripture not just the parts that make us feel good.

Our passage today starts with a warning.

The author is addressing a group of people that have heard the message of Christ but have refused to surrender to Him.

They have been told the truth of sin and their need for a rescuer but have chosen to continue living without turning to Christ to be saved from the consequences of sin.

They have heard the need for Christ but have chosen to reject Him for their own desires.

They author mentions at the end of verse 26, "**no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**" this is a reminder that Christ physical death is the lasting sacrifice to offer forgiveness of sins.

For those that have bowed before Christ in surrender no longer face judgment, our sentence has been commuted.

Christ has bore the consequences of our sins.

However, those that chose to walk alone, those that run down a path of self-driven salvation will find something very different at the end of their days.

Those that die while still rejecting Christ face a terrifying reality.

They will face the full judgment of God and will find themselves consumed by the fire that cannot be quenched.

Choose Jesus!

28 Anyone who disregarded the law of Moses died without mercy, based on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve who has trampled on the Son of God, who has regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know the one who has said, **Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,** and again, **The Lord will judge his people.** 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:28-31

When verse 28 talks about “disregarded the law of Moses” it is not simply talking about a Jewish person not following the laws.

It is talking about someone outright rejecting the law.

Rejecting God’s law is equal to rejecting God himself.

For this the punishment was death and required at least two witnesses to testify.

If rejecting the law of Moses was punishable by death then the words of verse 29 certainly should not be taken lightly.

Look back at verse 29 with me:

29 How much worse punishment do you think one will deserve who has trampled on the Son of God, who has regarded as profane the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:29

Those are some strong words!

The author does not beat around the bush about the seriousness of rejecting Christ.

This verse list 3 offenses.

1. Trampling on the Son of God

This is a rejection of the divine nature of Christ.

This person says that Christ is not God.

Look at John 14:8-9 briefly with me:

8 "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

John 14:8-9

This helps us to understand that Jesus and the Father are one.

To reject one is to reject the other.

A rejection of Christ's divinity is a rejection of the existence of God.

2. Regarding as Profane the blood of the Covenant.

This is to look at the blood of Christ as ordinary.

This person looks upon the blood Christ spilled on the cross as that of any other person.

They do not believe that the blood of Christ holds the power to forgive our sin.

Viewing Christ blood as ordinary is saying that it does not make us Holy, it does not set us apart for God.

3. Insulting the Holy Spirit.

When one rejects Jesus' divinity they reject the Father.

Not just the Father but also the Holy Spirit.

If you reject Christ you also reject the Spirit of grace.

Simply put if you reject any part of the Trinity you reject all of Him.

In verse 30 the author again quotes the Old Testament, continuing to reveal how the Old is telling the story of the New.

In verse 30 He quotes parts of Deuteronomy 32:35-36.

The author uses these verses to anchor the argument, those who embrace sin and reject Christ have earned/chosen a terrible punishment.

In rejecting the grace of Christ this person has chosen the divine wrath of God.

Choose Jesus!

32 Remember the earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to taunts and afflictions, and at other times you were companions of those who were treated that way. 34 For you sympathized with the prisoners and accepted with joy the confiscation of your possessions, because you know that you yourselves have a better and enduring possession.

The original audience had endured suffering at the hands of the world because of their faith in Jesus.

They did not hide their love for Christ as a result some believed but others ridiculed them.

Verse 34 were they sympathized with the prisoners is referring to followers of Christ have been imprisoned because of their faith.

They understood the pain of the prisoner and had compassion on them but also were willing to join them if it meant not denying Christ.

In the early days of their faith they endured much including having their possessions taken from them because of their faith.

Their stuff being taken is not what is amazing about this part of verse 34.

The words, **“with joy”** is what is remarkable.

They looked on with joy as their things were taken from them.

Items they worked hard to gain, items passed down from family members, and so on.

They watched with gladness as it was carried away no longer theirs, all because they proclaimed Christ as Lord.

Why, why were they able to look on with joy?

Because they knew that these things would pass away but their prized possession was not one that could ever be taken.

The thing desired to possess above all else was theirs for eternity, Jesus.

They knew the words Jesus spoke in John 16:33

33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

John 16:33

Jesus was speaking to His disciples trying to prepare them for his death.

Verse 33 is what He told them to encourage them.

It still holds true today and the original audience of Hebrews understood that.

Despite what some like to say the Christian life is not one that frees us from suffering.

As we read the words of Christ and Paul we learn the opposite of that is true.

Christian, you will face suffering because we follow Christ.

The world does not understand faith in the One True God and they will always mock what they do not understand.

The Christian life will never be easy but will always be worth it.

The Hebrews this book was written for understood that and deemed it worth every earth thing they had.

Pick up in verse 35 with:

35 So don't throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, you may receive what was promised. 37 For yet in **a very little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith; and if he draws back, I have no pleasure in him.** 39 But we are not those who draw back and are destroyed, but those who have faith and are saved.

Hebrews 10:32-39

In these verses the author is reminding us that we have a confidence in Christ that is not found anywhere else.

He is encouraging the reader not to give up following after Christ in the face of suffering.

Following God to the end of the life results in a promised reward, seeing our savior face to face.

There is nothing better than getting worship our God with nothing in the way.

Now we see Him through our frail mortal bodies but one day we will see Him in perfection, His glory undimmed by this world.

Verse 37 the author again draws on the Old Testament for support.

Verses 37-38 the author quotes Habakkuk 2:3-4.

In Habakkuk Yahweh and Habakkuk are having a discussion.

In the quoted verses God responds telling of the coming judgement of Judah.

The author is using it here to remind us that there is yet another judgment to come, the final judgment of Christ.

The ones that live by faith in Christ will be found righteous, those that have chosen to walk by faith in this world will be found guilty and cast out.

In verse 39 the author offers a final piece of encouragement.

He reminds the reader of where their faith is found and that they are not a people that will back away from their faith.

He encourages them again that they serve Jesus and will not run from hard times but will continue in their faith.

Application

Choose Jesus!

This passage does not leave much room, we either follow Jesus or we don't.

There is no in between.

If we chose to reject Him then our eternity is one of torment.

If we chose to submit, surrender, follow Jesus then something greater than this world awaits us in eternity.

To reject Him is to forfeit forgiveness, to accept Him is to be redeemed.

Following Jesus is not easy but the reward is eternal.

In this world we will have suffering but in the next we will be free.

All that call Him Lord will see Him face to face!

Choose Jesus!

Challenge

Have you submitted to the call of Christ?

If not, what is stopping you?

If you have, keep walking with Him and do all you can to bring others with you!

If someone be determined to reject Jesus then let us love them, if they wish to die without Jesus then let us model forgiveness for them, and if they wish to enter eternity unprepared then let it not be they have not been warned.