

Hebrews

Chapter 10, Part 4

I. Introduction

- a. In our previous lesson, the writer of Hebrews began to look at the possible responses to his lengthy teaching on the superiority of Christ
 - i. The previous passage looked at the proper response for a believer after hearing such a convincing message of Jesus being the Messiah
 1. We should draw near in faith
 2. We should endure in hope
 3. We should gather in love
 - ii. The passage before us today primarily considers false professor
 1. Oftentimes, such warnings are misunderstood by some in thinking this means one can lose their salvation
 - a. Actually, endurance proves one is truly saved
 - b. Not enduring proves one never was saved

II. Commentary

a. **Verses 26-31**

- i. Remember, the previous passage reminded us that we should not neglect *“to meet together, as is the habit of some”*
 1. Clearly, some had stopped attending services apparently because they had lost interest in the Gospel...in Christianity
 - a. This is not speaking about people that are providentially hindered
 - b. The current passage reveals that some professing believers had actually apostatized
- ii. Jesus said, *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples” (John 8:31)*
 1. He said this to *“Jews who had believed him”*
 - a. So, these people had made a profession of faith in Him
 - b. These people had said they believed Jesus was the Messiah
 - c. The mark of whether they had truly believed was if they abided (or endured) in His instructions
- iii. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus spoke of two groups that make professions of faith but weren't truly saved
 1. He said, *“And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.” (Mark 4:16-18)*
 - a. One of these groups actually believed *“with joy”*

- i. They initially made mental ascent to the Gospel
 - 1. However, because “*they have no root in themselves*”, they don’t endure
 - a. Their lack of endurance is proof that they never were saved
 - b. The other group initially makes a profession
 - i. However, the things of the world ultimately win out
 - 1. These are proven unfruitful
 - a. Again, these don’t endure because they don’t truly believe
- iv. John spoke of a group that had left the church
 - 1. He said, “*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*” (**1 John 2:19**)
 - a. These left the church
 - b. They were not true believers
 - i. Had they been true believers, “*they would have continued*” it the church
 - 1. The fact that they left proved they never were saved
 - c. Again, endurance is the mark of a true believer
- v. Paul spoke of those that ultimately denied Jesus
 - 1. He said, “*The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful*” (**2 Timothy 2:11-13**)
 - a. If we endure, we will reign with Jesus
 - b. If we deny Him (apostatize), He will deny us
 - c. If we are faithless (don’t serve well), He continues to be faithful
- vi. If a person goes “*on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins*”
 - 1. If a person turns from Jesus for salvation, there is no other option
 - a. “*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*” (**Acts 4:12**)
 - i. If a professing believer turns away from Jesus, they don’t have anywhere else to go
- vii. If a person denies Jesus as Savior, there is “*a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries*”
 - 1. If a person apostatizes, the only thing they can expect is eternal damnation
 - a. The writer of Hebrews is not suggesting that a true believer can or will do this
 - i. This language is certainly a warning to all who make professions of faith in Jesus

1. However, this is speaking of a false professor who ultimately turns away
 - a. This is a warning of what is awaiting a false professor when he turns away from Jesus and back to the world
- viii. There was punishment in the Law for the person who sinned “*with a high hand*” (**Numbers 15:30-31**)
 1. The person that deliberately “*set aside the law of Moses*” was to be put to death
- ix. There is a greater punishment for the false professor who declares Jesus to be Savior and then turns against Him completely and denies Him
 1. This is not some random sin
 2. This is the specific sin of turning away from Jesus and denying Him
 - a. A truly believer will endure
 - b. A person that makes a false profession will not
 - i. The penalty for a false professor who apostatizes is worse than a general unbeliever
 1. Both Pilate and Judas were unbelievers
 - a. However, Judas’ sin was worse than Pilates (**John 19:11**)
 3. The false professor who later denies Jesus actually tramples “*underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified*”
 - a. Like a rioter who tramples a flag under his foot, so is denying Jesus after one has made a profession of faith
 - b. The apostate actually profanes the blood of Jesus
 - i. Jesus was set apart by His blood...by His death for sinners
 1. The apostate profanes this
 - c. The apostate outrages “*the Spirit of grace*”
 - i. The Spirit worked through Jesus and testifies of Him through men
 1. The apostate insults the work of the Spirit as well
- x. Ultimately, the apostate will be judged by God Himself
 1. He will be punished eternally along with Judas
 - a. As a final warning, the writer declares, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*”
 - i. Let us never be fearful to warn people against apostasy for “*the one who endures to the end will be saved*” (**Matthew 10:22**)
 1. Those that make a profession of faith should take it seriously
 - a. A false profession will not last and that one will ultimately face God under a stricter judgment because they had received “*the knowledge of the truth*”