

Spiritual Growth Questions for October 18, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Which part of Hebrews 10:26-31 is the most difficult part for you to embrace? Why?

1. In this passage, we have a warning about those who have come close to the Christian faith, perhaps sharing the life of Christian worship, and they turn around and deny it all. Persecution and other troubles have tempted some and can tempt us to declare that Christ and the whole Christian life is worthless. What can help us resist that temptation?
2. **Read Hebrews 10:26.** What does the author mean by sinning deliberately? How does this kind of sin nullify the sacrifice for sins? How should we think of those who sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth. What does the author mean by this phrase?
3. **Read Hebrews 10:27-29** What does trampling underfoot the Son of God refer? What is so shocking or ironic about rejecting the Son of God? What does it mean to regard the blood of the covenant as profane? What is significant about the blood of the new covenant? Look back in Hebrews at previous verses about the blood.
4. **Read Hebrews 10:26-31 and especially 26 and 29.** What would doing the opposite of those verses look like? How would doing those things help you move forward?
5. Is there some good thing I have made the ultimate? Is there something in my life more central to me than my relationship with God?

Scripture: Read the passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

II. Read the following scriptures: Romans 6:12-14, 19. Psalm 19:11-14

Choose one of the passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method.

Prayer: Lord show me if there is some good thing I have made the ultimate. Reveal to me anything in my life more central to me than my relationship with God. May I seek you and your kingdom first. May Jesus increase and I decrease!

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Moving Forward Part One: Avoiding Roadblocks

Hebrews 10:26-39 October 18, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today we consider the theme 'moving forward' found in Hebrews 10:26-39. In order to live this way, some things need to be avoided and other things embraced. Pray that we would continue growing closer to Jesus and reflecting His great love. By God's grace, let's move forward to what lies ahead!

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, yet a little while and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Big Idea: God keeps us moving forward by revealing what to avoid, what to remember, what to hold onto and embrace. I am reaching forward to what lies ahead.

Key Questions: What do I need to avoid? What do I need to embrace?

I. We need to avoid _____ sin.

Sin is not just doing the bad things, but it is making the good things the ultimate things. It is seeking to establish a sense of self by making something else more central to your significance, purpose and happiness than your relationship with God. Timothy Keller

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Four exhortations so far: 1. Drift from the Word, Hebrews 2:1-4. 2. Doubt the Word, 3:7-4;13 . 3. Dull towards the Word, 5:11-6:20. 4. Resulting in Despising the Word, 10:26-31.

Deliberately – hekousios, willing participation in an action, something done with a clear mind and a firm step.

Dealing with the sin of apostasy. In the abandoning of the once and for all sacrifice means that one has abandoned all hope of salvation. Carson

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

What the author has in mind is a deliberate, sinful lifestyle of high handed rebellion against the gospel. So in Hebrews 10:26 those whom the author has in mind demonstrate a continuity between the time before hearing the gospel and after, and continuing a lifestyle of rejecting God’s Word. Mohler

Only one sacrifice renders all other sacrifices incomplete. Where then can one go for an efficacious sacrifice?

Action Plan: Ask God to show you what you need to avoid. Drift, Hebrews 2:1-4, Doubt, Hebrews 3:7-4:13, Dull, Hebrews 5:11-6:20, resulting in Despising God’s Word. Reflect on Psalm 19:13, Psalm 119:133, Romans 6:12-14 as you pray for God’s direction in your life to keep you moving forward.

Is there some good thing that I have made the ultimate? Is there something in my life that is more central to me than my relationship with God?

**Removing roadblocks keep us moving forward.
I am reaching forward to what lies ahead!**

II. Remind ourselves that what we do _____.

Hebrews 10:27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Lesser to the greater: Rejecting the law this / here is what happened (lesser). Imagine rejecting Jesus and His sacrifice/ here is what will happen (greater)

Hebrews 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Three marks of apostasy- 1. Trampling underfoot the Son of God. 2. Regarding as profane the blood of the covenant. 3. Insulting the Holy Spirit.

Christ came to save us from eternal judgment, John 3:16. What happens if one tramples on Him, His sacrificial work and spurns the Holy Spirit of grace?

Judgment is inevitable and impartial. Think lightly of hell and you will think lightly of the cross. Charles Spurgeon

Hebrews 10:29 what do you think will happen if you turn on God’s Son, spit on the sacrifice that made you whole, and insult this most gracious Spirit? 30 This is no light matter. God has warned us that he’ll hold us to account and make us pay. He was quite explicit: “Vengeance is mine, and I won’t overlook a thing,” and, “God will judge his people.” 31 Nobody’s getting by with anything, believe me. (The Message)

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Make much of the Son of God! John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Make much of His sacrifice. Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Your obedience matters greatly! Hebrews 12:2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Be Teachable: Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Prov. 1:7, 2:12

Teachable and obedient disciples move forward.

I am reaching FORWARD to what lies ahead!