

Falling into the Hands of the Living God

(The Dreadful Doom of the Apostate)

Text: Hebrews 10:26-31

Main Idea: The terrifying fury of God's wrath is a certain expectation for those who reject full knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1. A _____: Who is the Apostate & what has he done? (v. 26a, 29b)

- Someone who has fully received the _____ of truth.
- Someone who has willfully sinned by continually & finally _____ the truth concerning Jesus.
 - He _____ the divine person of Jesus.
 - He _____ divine redemption.
 - He _____ the divine Spirit.

2. A Solemn _____: What is the horrifying warning for the Apostate? (v. 26b, 27-29a, Deut 17:2-6)

- _____ is impossible because there is no sacrifice! (v. 26b)
- Terrifying Judgment is _____! (v. 27-29a)
 - Adversaries will be consumed with the _____ of God's holy fire!
 - Those who reject God's Son deserve a _____ severe punishment than being stoned to death!

3. The _____ of God: Who is God and what should we expect from Him? (v. 30-31, Deut 32:35-36)

- Because God is Holy He will execute _____ against His enemies! (v. 30a)
- Because God is all wise He will _____ His people! (v. 30b)
- Because God is sovereign He is _____ to pour out His wrath! (v. 31)

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Application Questions:

1. This has traditionally been a hard passage for some to understand. It is important to identify whom the writer is actually talking about. What description is given in verse 26? Specifically what does “*sinning deliberately*” mean IN THE CONTEXT of this passage? (Go back to v. 19-25 & the argument of the whole book). How do we know this is NOT a description of an unbeliever who is outside the church, but rather someone who has spent a great deal of time “in the church?” (Notice v. 26)
2. What three specific actions does the writer say this particular person has done by rejecting Jesus in v. 29b?
3. Read and study the context of Deuteronomy 17:2-6. What does this passage require Israel to do to members of the covenant community who have “transgressed the covenant” and “served other gods & worshiped them?” How does the writer use this law to compare the worse situation of someone rejecting Jesus? (Notice the writer says in v. 29 – “How much worse punishment....”)
4. What is a good definition of apostasy? Do unbelievers commit apostasy? Do true believers commit apostasy? (See the parable of the Soils in Mark 4:1-20. List characteristics of the second and third soil (v. 5-7 & 16-19) that might characterize apostasy. Contrast those characteristics with the last soil. What does the first soil represent?
5. What 2 reasons does the writer give that makes apostasy so horrifying (v. 26b, 27-29a)? Go back and re-read Hebrews 6:4-9. How are these passages similar? Are they speaking about the same type of people?
6. The writer uses the character of God as a deterrent to apostasy. What is his argument? What word does the writer use to describe these people who reject Jesus (end of v. 27)? How does this passage confront the common idea that “God is loving & would never send anyone to hell?” How does v. 31 summarize his argument? Go read the greatest sermon ever preached by Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/sermons.sinners.html>

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