

Heb. 10:26-39 – Deliberately Sinning or Dedicatedly Following? - Lesson Summary

My 3 year old daughter's at that stage when she tests the boundaries. A clear command to "not throw that" is quickly followed by a 95mph fastball of her stuffed unicorn. "Come back here," is followed by a world record sprint out of the room. And, "don't scream" leads to an earsplitting banshee cry. Her motive is clear. I will do what I want to do despite your authority. Now while this can be maddening, we have seen growth in repentance and obedience. As we engage the final verses of Heb. 10 we see a much stronger disobedience. The individuals being addressed are deliberately sinning as they scoff at the work of Christ. This is in stark contrast to those in the end of the passage who are dedicatedly following Christ in all circumstances.

It's interesting how the author of Hebrews approaches these groups. In speaking to both he highlights their behaviors and the resulting consequences. Those who are deliberately sinning are described in **three ways**. They are **setting aside the law of God**. They have little regard for God's call to holiness. In fact, they know the law but are intentionally setting it aside. It has no bearing on their behavior or motives. Secondly, they are **trampling underfoot the Son of God**. This is unfamiliar wording to us today but its tone is one of disdain. Their view toward Christ is one of animosity and anger. They are essentially screaming, "How dare you try and control me." This is a far cry from struggling to listen to Christ. It's hearing Christ and spitting upon Him as one walks away. Finally, the author addresses their **profaning of the blood of Christ**. They simply disregard the gravity of Christ's freeing work on the cross. They put no value in Christ who has offered a new covenant of grace. These actions are extreme and definitive. The author is not addressing a group of those struggling, but instead, those who are actively walking away.

The consequences of these actions are severe. These individuals will experience significant punishment. Living outside the will of God will lead to destruction. They've outraged the Spirit of Grace. The very grace and mercy of God that could provide life is instead angered by one's disregard for it. Ultimately, these individuals will experience God's vengeance. Sin will be paid for, either by Christ's death, or one's own.

I am so thankful that the passage does not end here! The author redirects his focus to those who have responded differently to Christ. Again, he addresses **three specific behaviors** as he encourages the true believer. He reminds them that they have **endured suffering**. Despite opportunities to take the "easier way" they have chosen to continue in obedience. They have **had compassion toward others**. A clear understanding of their need for a Savior has resulted in moving toward others in their sin. Finally, they have joyfully accepted abuse. Like Christ, they have miraculously **found joy in the midst of great injustice**. In a sense, they reflect Christ as they experience joy while surrendering their possessions and await a greater inheritance. Christ also suffered injustice as He surrendered His life so that He could ensure our inheritance.

While some may consider consequences in a more negative light, the author addresses the beautiful consequences of pursuing Christ. As mentioned earlier, those following Christ can experience joy in all circumstances. This joy comes from an assurance of the saving work of Christ and the greater possession of a restored relationship with our Heavenly Father. We become children of the King of Kings and will receive a great reward. This reward will far surpass the fleeting pleasures of this world. We find great blessings in dedicated obedience toward Christ. Have you made the decision to dedicatedly follow Christ?

The author concludes by reminding us that it was the desperate love of our Savior that empowers us to not shrink back. Jesus came, He did not shrink back, and instead, endured the cross, and He is coming again!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some of the deliberate sins the author addresses in this passage? Have you ever sinned in these ways? Did you feel justified to behave in this way or did you feel convicted?
- 2) Have you ever considered the consequences of your sin? What do you believe is a stronger motivation to not sin? The consequences you might face or the love of Christ?
- 3) Have you ever found joy in suffering? Are you encouraged that despite our current suffering, we have an eternal reward through Christ?