

Sermon Notes

**When the Warnings Do Not Work
Or, what about those who quit the race?
Rom. 11:21-22**

Introduction

- 1) We have texts that are warnings, threats, and conditions.
Mk. 13:13; Jn. 15:5-6; Rom. 8:13; 11:22; 1 Cor. 9:27; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14; 6:4-6; 10:26; 12:14; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 1 Jn. 2:3-5; Rev. 21:7-8
 - 2) We have texts that are promises and assurances.
John 6:37, 39; 10:27-29; Rom. 8:29-30, 38-39; 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:7-9; Eph. 4:30; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:5; Jd. 24
1. First question: what is the function of these warnings? How are they designed to work?
 2. We then looked at four views of the warnings.
 - (1) The lose your salvation view marginalizes the promises, and often proves too much from the threats.
 - (2) The loss of reward view minimizes the threats. In other words, it is not loss of reward that constitutes the threat, it is loss of attaining final salvation.
 - (3) The test of genuineness sees the threats are tests of whether a person was really converted. The result is running the race backwards.
 - (4) Means of salvation – the final view focuses on the already/not yet of salvation and see the warnings (and the promises) as means which keep the true Christian running the race.

What do we say when the warnings don't seem to work, the conditions are not met?

- I. We Need to Understand the NT Perspective of the Already/Not Yet**
 - A. There is an already to salvation that gives me assurance ~ Titus 3:5-7
 - B. There is a not yet to salvation that causes me to persevere, to finish the race ~ Rom. 13:11
 - C. Both together ~ 1 Pet. 1:3-9
- II. We Need to Understand the NT Does Not Usually Address Whether or Not the Beginning of the Race was Real.**
 - A. Examples: 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 4:10; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:
 - B. Annanias/Saphira, Simon the Magician, etc.



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III. The NT Does Affirm the Need to Self-Examination

2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Pet. 1:10

*But this does not mean that we use the warnings to run backwards!

IV. The NT Does Explain Why Some Do Not Finish the Race

1 Jn. 2:18-19

How to understand those who "leave the fold"

Conclusion

1. A word of warning to us
2. A word of hope for us

