



TITLE:

The Apostasy and Its Punishment

TEXT:

Hebrews 10:26-31

APOSTASY

- Paul exhorted the brethren to hold fast the profession of their faith (v.23).
 - In contrast, Paul warned the unsaved people who are part of the audience of the epistle, the consequence if they will apostatize.
 - Salvation is not by holding fast but by repentance and faith.
- The same warning is mentioned in Hebrews 6:4-6.
 - These unsaved people were:
 - Enlightened. They received the light that Jesus Christ is giving.
 - Tasted of the heavenly gift. They experience, partake of, perceive the flavor of the heavenly gifts.
 - Made partakers of the Holy Ghost.
 - Tasted the good word of God. They experienced the excellency of the truth of God; they had seen and enjoyed its beauty.
 - For those who tasted the powers of the world to come. They had seen the blessings of the believers to be expected in the future.
 - It is impossible to renew them again unto repentance if they shall fall away or apostatize.
- “Sin wilfully” doesn’t refer to the general sin that believer can do. It is defined in verse 29.
 - After they have received the knowledge of the truth, they:
 - Trodden under foot the Son of God.
 - It means to spurn, to reject with contempt, to treat with insulting neglect the Son of God.
 - Counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing.
 - It means to consider the blood and the sacrificial atonement of the Son of God as an unholy thing or common or unclean.
 - Hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace.
 - It means to insult the Spirit of grace - The Holy Spirit.
- The Bible term “sanctify” in verse 29 does not refer to salvation.
 - It means “to set apart” - something that is set apart for divine service.
 - See 2 Peter 2:20-22.

THE PUNISHMENT OF APOSTASY

- No more sacrifice for sins (v.26).
 - If a person rejects the ONLY WAY of salvation, there is no other way he can be saved.
- But fearful looking for (or terrible receiving) of judgment and fiery indignation (or fiery anger) (v.28).
 - This refers to the eternal punishment in the lake of fire for all who rejected Jesus Christ.
- Paul asked a question to show the sorer or worse punishment of them who apostatize (v.28-29).
 - Jews who despised the law of Moses died. They died without mercy.
 - How much more punishment if you trodden under foot the Son of God, counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?
- “For we know the Vengeance and judgement of God.” (v.30)
 - Paul quoted from Deut. 32:35-36, Psa. 50:4, 135:14.
 - The punishment is the act of the vengeance and judgement of God.
- The warning:
 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (v.31).