

Jesus is a BETTER FEAR
Text: Hebrews 10:26 – 31

A WARNING against APOSTASY: Hebrews 10:26

- 1) **Who is an APOSTATE?** Those who: Have forsaken the Christian Faith; Ceased to be a true follower of Jesus; Decided to “hedge” their spiritual bets through an outward spiritual profession but deny the reality and authority of the Gospel in their daily lives.
- 2) **APOSTASY is a DELIBERATE (and usually CONTINUING) act:** Numbers 15:30. See: vs. 31; Deut. 17:12; Psalm 19:13; Prov. 2:13-15
- 3) **APOSTATES are often REVEALED by their CONTINUING UNREPENTANCE in other SINS:** 1 John 3:6, 9. See: vs. 3:4-5, 8; 5:18
- 4) **APOSTATES are NOT COVERED by Christ’s SACRIFICE:** Heb 10:26c
- 5) **It is BETTER to NOT have heard the GOSPEL than to live willfully in sinful OPPOSITION to God’s grace:** 2 Peter 2:20–21

The OUTWARD BEHAVIORS of (FUNCTIONAL) APOSTATES:

- 1) **They DON’T WANT to be NEAR to and HEAR from (Worship) God:** Hebrews 10:21–22a
- 2) **They DON’T HOLD steadfastly to the GOSPEL as a CONFESSION of their SAVING HOPE:** Hebrews 10:23a
- 3) **They DON’T ASSEMBLE regularly or intentionally with the Saints thus avoiding the TRANSFORMING grace of community:** Hebrews 10:24–25a; 1 John 2:19. See also: Hebrews 3:13

The INWARD HEART of APOSTATES

- 1) **They DENY the present IDENTITY of JESUS, God’s SON:** Heb. 10:29b
- 2) **They DESPISE the ATONING WORK of Jesus:** Hebrews 10:29c See also: Hebrews 6:4-6, 9:13-14
- 3) **They DISOBEY the convicting VOICE of the HOLY SPIRIT:** Hebrews 10:29d; Mark 3:28-29. See also: Isaiah 63:10; Eph. 4:30; 1 John 5:16

The CONSEQUENCES of APOSTASY – Apostates will...

- 1) **Be JUDGED by God:** Hebrews 10:26a, 27a, 30b. qtd from Deuteronomy 32:36. See also: Hebrews 4:13, 9:27
- 2) **Come under His AVENGING JUSTICE:** Hebrews 10:30a. qtd from Deuteronomy 32:35. See also: Romans 12:19
 - **DESPITE the LIES they comfort themselves with:** Deut. 29:18-20

- 3) **Receive a SENTENCE worse than DEATH – HELL:** Hebrews 10:28-29a; Luke 12:5. See: Deuteronomy 17:2-6
- 4) **Experience God’s BURNING WRATH –** Hebrews 10:27b
 - a) **God IS a HOLY, CONSUMING FIRE:** Hebrews 12:29. See also: Deuteronomy 4:24; Isaiah 26:11, 33:14
 - b) **JESUS will return in FIRE to inflict God’s VENGEANCE:** 2 Thessalonians 1:7b–9. See also: Isaiah 66:15-16, Zeph. 1:18

A TRANSFORMING TRUTH that GUARDS US against APOSTASY:
Hebrews 10:31

- 1) **It is GOOD to FEAR GOD:** 1 Chronicles 16:25; Psalm 111:10, 147:11, 86:11; 1 Peter 2:17c *
- 2) **IF we DON’T FEAR God supremely NOW and place our FAITH in His Salvation – we will have MUCH to FEAR FOREVER:** Hebrews 10:38b, 39b. See also: Heb. 2:2-3; 3:12; 12:25
 - **DON’T FEAR: Man; Missing out, Giving up self-sovereignty**
- 3) **IF we righteously FEAR GOD supremely NOW and place our FAITH only in His saving, gracious SON – we will have NO FEAR FOREVER:** Hebrews 10:38a, 39ac; Hebrews 7:25.

***SEE:** Lev. 25:17; Deut. 6:13, 8:6, 10:12, 20, 13:4, 14:23, 17:19, 28:58, 31:12-13; Joshua 4:24, 24:14; 1 Sam. 12:14, 24; 2 Kings 17:34-39; 2 Chron. 19:7-10; Neh. 1:11; Job 1:8, 2:3, 28:28; Ps. 2:11, 19:9, 22:23a, 25:12, 14, 33:8, 18, 34:7, 9, 11, 47:2, 86:11, 96:4, 102:15, 103:13, 17, 112:1, 115:13, 118:4, 128:1, 4; Prov. 1:7, 29, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:6, 33, 19:23, 22:4, 24:21, 28:14, 31:30; Ecc. 5:7, 7:18, 8:12-13, 12:13; Is. 8:13, 11:2-3, 59:19, 63:17; Jer. 2:19; Hosea 3:5; Hab. 3:2; Mal. 1:6, 14, 3:5, 16; 1 Cor. 5:11; 2 Cor. 7:1; Col. 3:22; Heb. 11:7; Rev. 14:7, 15:4; 19:5

Gospel In Life Group Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?