



## The Book of Hebrews 10:26-30\_No More Sacrifice for Sins!

*Revisiting the Sad Reality of Apostasy*

February 8, 2026

### **Holy Text: Hebrews 10:26-30**

#### **Context:**

- For several weeks, we have taken a detailed look at Hebrews 10:25 and attempted to understand the command in the biblical lights of:
  1. The overall message and themes of Hebrews: Christ's superiority and the Call to Persevere in the Faith! **Christ is why we must not Forsake the Assembly! His Person, Life, Love, Holy Work, and continual High Priesthood demand and deserve our faithfulness!**
  2. The unique ministry of the Local Church (the administration of the Means of Grace) has been given for the glory of God and the edification and maturity of God's elect!
  3. The need to place ourselves under the ministry of pastors/elders, who were given by Christ to His churches for the perfecting of the saints!
- In other words, the command to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together" is given because of 1) The Person, Glory, Holy Work, and High Priesthood of Christ, 2) The liturgical elements of the church that strengthen the Body, and 3) The design of the church wherein Christ's flock are taught and protected.
- Our fervent hope is that you see the ministry of the local church in a different, more mature, more sustaining and God-glorifying way...as something valuable, precious, beautiful, worth supporting, and absolutely necessary for your growth and discipleship!
- Indeed, we were recently reminded via our 2022 message, *The Courageous Church Member*<sup>1</sup>, to:
  1. Understand and not be ashamed of the local church!
  2. Be committed to the local church!
  3. Pray with and for the local church!
  4. Faithfully attend the local church!
  5. Be submitted and accountable to the local church!
  6. Build life around the local church!
  7. Build up the local church!
  8. Serve the local church!
  9. Give to the local church!
  10. Bring up our children in the local church!

Amen!

### **The Warning Framing of Today's Text**

- One undeniable characteristic of the Epistle to the Hebrews is its "warning" or "admonishing" nature.
- In our Text (also the rest of chapter 10) and others, we glimpse the heart of God, inspiring the author via His Spirit, to very strongly raise the "apostasy alarm" again and again...

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<sup>1</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2022/5/the-courageous-church-member>

**Hebrews 2:1-4 (KJV)** Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. **2** For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; **3** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; **4** God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

**Hebrews 3:7-8 (KJV)** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, **8** Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

**Hebrews 12:14-17 (KJV)** Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: **15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; **16** Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. **17** For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

### **Initial Questions and Thoughts on the Text**

1. When we look at the first two verses of Today's Text...

**Hebrews 10:26-27 (KJV)** For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

2. ...and in particular the phrase, "For if we sin willfully," questions come to mind:

- Are these verses a break in thought or a continuation from the immediate context?
- What is the "willful sin" in question?
- Given the serious nature of the consequences ("no more sacrifice for sins," "judgment," "fiery indignation," "devouring the adversaries," how do we obey this Text? Please teach us LORD!

3. To us, the context DOES NOT support that the "sin" mentioned (*hamartanō* in Greek...to do wrong; to miss the mark) is consistently missing church!

4. One can argue that such *forsaking* (an attitude of neglect) the LORD's Day gathering is in fact, a sin (since we've been commanded not to), but we believe the "sin" here is broader in scope, and forsaking the assembly is simply the sad and bad fruit of it.

5. The context supports this conclusion. The next three verses say:

**Hebrews 10:28-30 (KJV)** *He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.*

- In verse 28, the author mentions despising Moses' Law and its punishment. Why death? To despise the Law is to despise the God who gave it. (Num 15:30-31; Deut 17:2-7; Prov 28:9) Given the primary audience—Hebrews who have “confessed” belief in Christ—we believe the author is warning of covenantal unbelief in a “professed” believer, or *apostasy*.
  - The author uses “fortiori” rhetoric in verse 29, with Moses and his Law as the lessor and Christ as the greater. This is the “how much more” line of argumentation we see often in the NT.<sup>2</sup> He mentions “trodding” the Son of God underfoot as deserving worse punishment than despising Moses' Law. The imagery here communicates this unbelief is like stepping or trampling upon Christ and His Holy Work. Again, would/could a true believer do this?
  - Also in verse 29, to count the “blood of the covenant” as an “unholy thing” surely encompasses the heart, words, and actions of an apostate! This person “hath done despite” or insulted the Holy Spirit Himself!
  - Such a person will reap the vengeance of God! (v.30)
6. Again, the sin referred to seems to be that of *covenantal unbelief*<sup>3</sup>...of having false faith despite hearing the Truth. Such unbelief, deliberately or willfully, lowers or ignores the primacy, identity, and Old Testament fulfillments of Christ.

#### **Reviewing Apostasy<sup>4</sup>**

- The idea of departing from the living God is something called *apostasy*.
- *Apostasy*, according to the Webster 1828 is “an abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion.”
- It comes from the Greek *apostasias*, which means “a defiance of an established system or authority; a rebellion; an abandonment or breach of faith.”<sup>5</sup> Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary defines it as “a defection from the truth; to fall away or forsake.”
- The word is found in the New Testament in two verses:

**Acts 21:21 (KJV)** *And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to **forsake** Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.*

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV)** *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

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<sup>2</sup> Latin for “with stronger reason.” Used over 60 times in the Bible.

<sup>3</sup> As distinguished from the common lapses of faith of true Christians.

<sup>4</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2025/2/the-book-of-hebrews-64-6-if-they-shall-fall-away-revisiting-the-frightening-reality-of-apostasy>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/apostasy.html>

The condition or state of apostasy (falling away) is warned against throughout the Bible. A few more verses from the New Testament:

**Matthew 13:20-21 (KJV)** *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

**1 Timothy 1:5-6 (KJV)** *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling:*

**1 Timothy 4:1-5 (KJV)** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

**1 Timothy 5:14-15 (KJV)** *I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.*

**2 Timothy 2:15-19 (KJV)** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. 19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

**2 Peter 2:20-22 (KJV)** *For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

- Apostasy, from a Christian perspective, images a previous adherence to Biblical doctrine and the Biblical God...an adherence that is now in the past. It is a sad word. It speaks to *what was* versus *what now is*, and the current reality of hard-heartedness and stiff-neckedness that produced this terrible condition.
- Our take: **To be an apostate is to be one who knew, and even “grew,” but was proven not to be true.**

### **Applications and Corporate Prayers**

## Applications

1. **First, this Text should admonish us all to make our calling and election sure! Examine yourself and “know that you know that you know” you are in Christ!**

**2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

**2 Peter 1:4-10 (KJV)** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

2. **If you are not in Christ, Repent now and Believe the Gospel!**

**Mark 1:15 (KJV)** And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV)** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

**Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

3. **Fear our God! Re-read our Text! God is not to be trifled with!**

**Proverbs 1:7 (KJV)** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

**Isaiah 66:2 (KJV)** For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

**Hebrews 12:28 (KJV)** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

**4. Like all true believers, treat the Commands of Scripture with proper reverence and obedience!**

***Psalms 119:48 (KJV)** My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.*

***Psalms 119:97 (KJV) MEM.** O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

***John 14:15 (KJV)** If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

***James 1:22 (KJV)** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

**5. Be mindful of the temptations of the world, flesh, and the devil to minimize Christ and what He has done. Just in our immediate context we can see how shameful such would be. Because of Christ...**

- ...We can “enter into the holiest” by His blood (10:19)
- This new and living way was consecrated through His flesh (10:20)
- He is our High Priest over the house of God (10:21)
- We can therefore draw near true hearts, fully assured faith, and holiness wrought by Christ (10:22)
- He who promised these things is faithful! (10:23)

Given all these wonderful things, we must:

- Consider one another, and... (10:24a)
- Provoke one another unto love and good works... (10:24b)
- Refusing to forsake His corporate worship like some do... (10:25)

**The implication is this: those who reject these gifts, don’t consider and provoke others unto love and good works, and decide to forsake the assembly may not be believers at all.**

**Based on their consistent behavior, they must not understand Who Jesus truly is and what He has done, even if they say they do! They may have professed Him, but they refuse to obey Him, refuse to truly love Him and refuse to help others do the same.**

**The author is saying that such a person cannot be a real Christian, and will face judgment as an unbeliever!**

**Prayers**

Recall again some of our thoughts from “If They Shall Fall Away”<sup>6</sup> and Hebrews 6:4-6:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2025/2/the-book-of-hebrews-64-6-if-they-shall-fall-away-revisiting-the-frightening-reality-of-apostasy>

Those who had a feigned-faith, who, “professed to become Christians, were baptized, and took their place in the local assemblies,” but “had never been born again by the Holy Spirit of God,” would eventually show their true state.

- They had been enlightened. Not converted, but “made aware” of their sin, their need for a Savior via the Word of God.
- They tasted of the heavenly gift. They sang, heard preaching, enjoyed fellowship, gave offerings, prayed, served, etc.
- They partook in the Holy Ghost. That is, they were in His Presence when among the saints, and were reprov'd of Him as unbelievers. (John 16:8) They may have seen Him move among His Body administering gifts (1 Cor 12), and yet remained unmoved.
- They tasted the good Word of God. Again, they heard preaching! They may have been in the assemblies when prophecies came forth, and the psalms of Zion were sung!
- They tasted of the powers of the world to come. That is, they would have seen the strength, power, encouragement, steadfastness, and joy that comes from the knowledge of eternal life in Jesus Christ among the true saints of God. They would have heard thundering sermons on eternal life, the return of Christ, the wonders of heaven!

**Oh Sovereign LORD, help us to know our true state before Thee. Master, do not allow anyone in this church to think they are saved but are not!**

***Psalms 26:2 (KJV)** Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.*

***Psalms 139:23-24 (KJV)** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: **24** And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Please LORD, for Thy judgment upon the spiritual hypocrite will be fierce and swift!

In Jesus' Name. Amen.