The Book of Hebrews 10:31_Falling into the Hands of the Living God!
February 15, 2026

Holy Text: Hebrews 10:31

- As we examine this section again today, it's good to remember the audience of Hebrews: mostly jewish men and women who have confessed faith in Jesus Christ.
- Among this group were those who were 1) True in faith, 2) Wavering in faith and tempted to go back to types and shadows, and 3) False converts who heard the Truth but rejected it.
- In the context of Hebrews 10:22-30, the author of Hebrews, via the Spirit of God, asserted that those who see the Day approaching…(v.25b)

    1. Draw near unto God with true hearts, full assurance of faith, and cleansed consciences, and holy living. (v.22)
    2. Hold fast to the profession of their faith without wavering! (v.23)
    3. Consider and provoke one another unto love and good works (v.24)
    4. Refuse to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as some do (v.25)

- Why? Because rejecting these commands:

    1. Constitutes willful sin DESPITE God's grace in granting knowledge of the truth! (v.26)
    2. Relieves the apostate of redemptive options: "There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." (v.26)
    3. Delivers the rebel to coming judgment! (vv.27-29)
    4. Incurs the wrath of God! (v.30)[1]

- Again, in keeping with the plain context, our view is the willful sin in question is the sin of *covenantal unbelief or apostasy: having a false faith despite hearing the Truth.*
- **Therefore, today's text is another warning to unbelievers, particularly those who have been exposed to Christian Doctrine, the Christian Church, and Christ Himself through the Means of Grace!**
- The context lovingly targets church attenders and perhaps those who said the prayer of the sinner without the proofs of the saint!
- **Beloved, let us pose these questions once again: "Is there are more terrible state of mind and heart than thinking one is saved and is not? Is there a more diabolical trick of the enemy? Is there a greater judgment upon lukewarm churches than to create and coddle this deception?"**

Working through Today's Text:
***Hebrews 10:31* (KJV)** *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Lest we are misunderstood, be reminded on the beautiful character of our God. He is:

- Loving!

    ***Romans 5:8* (KJV)** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

[1] "The LORD shall judge His people" can be interpreted two ways: 1) In the Old Testament sense wherein all of Israel was "His" and He rendered judgment upon rebels or 2) In the creative sense wherein all of mankind belongs to Him. What is not biblically tenable is God's eternal judgment upon true believers. We, praise His Name, are eternally secure! (John 10:27-29; Eph 1:3-13; 1 Pet 1:3-5)

1 John 4:9-10 ***(KJV)*** *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.* ***10*** *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

- Kind!

  Titus 3:4-6 ***(KJV)*** *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,* ***5*** *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;* ***6*** *Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;*

- Merciful and full of Grace!

  Psalms 103:8 ***(KJV)*** *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

  Psalms 119:156 ***(KJV)*** *Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD: quicken me according to thy judgments.*

  Titus 2:11-14 ***(KJV)*** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,* ***12*** *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;* ***13*** *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;* ***14*** *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

- Compassionate!

  Psalms 86:15 ***(KJV)*** *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

  Lamentations 3:22-23 ***(KJV)*** *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ***23*** *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

- And oh so Patient with Us!

  Romans 2:4 ***(KJV)*** *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

  2 Peter 3:9 ***(KJV)*** *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

And so many more wonderful attributes! But beloved, God is also a God of Justice and Judgment!

Isaiah 33:22 ***(KJV)*** *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.*

Acts 17:30-31 ***(KJV)*** *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:* ***31*** *Because he hath appointed a day, in the*

which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

***2 Corinthians 5:6-10* (KJV)** *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: **7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. **9** Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

- The judgment of God and His hatred for sin are less popular truths than His love and grace for obvious reasons: **Man detests the thought of eternal accountability for sin. In fact, Man abhors the very concept of sin!**
- So it follows that people don't like to think of God as our Judge. Why?
- **Because His judgment speaks to both His perfect standard of morality and righteousness AND His divine authority to try and render decisions in the cases of human hearts and behaviors! Thus mankind's distaste and hatred!**
- Nevertheless, to grow in our understanding of the God of the Bible, we must read of, teach, and embrace these crucial elements of His nature!

<u>Two Kinds of Biblical Fear towards God</u>
First, our Text says, **"It is a fearful thing…"** There are two kinds of fear concerning our LORD:

1. <u>The Fear of the LORD</u>, which is absolutely essential for Christian Discipleship, and…
2. <u>Tormenting Fear</u>, wherein men fear because of coming judgment.

Although our Text deals with the latter, let us be reminded briefly of the former, as its presence in our hearts is another indicator of the Spirit of God and helps us in a myriad of ways.

1. The Fear of the LORD
- Definition:
  1. "The fear of the Lord is the love, reverence, awe and passion that prompt the believer to obey God. It is that state of mental and emotional sanctification where the believer sees God as holy and a reverent trembling results. It is the necessary characteristic of Christian discipleship where total obedience to the commands of Christ is seen as a loving response to a loving God.
  2. It is a behavioral restraining element even in the heart of those who do not follow Christ. In other words, it is a cultural acknowledgment within man's conscience of the Law of God (Rom 2:15). It is a necessary component of any Godly and moral society.
  3. It is the understanding that God will one day judge the earth and all who ever lived."[2]

- We propose this is greatly missing among the churches, to our great hurt.
- Nevertheless, it is commanded throughout Scripture and many wonderful benefits are given:

  ***Deuteronomy 10:12-13* (KJV)** *And now, Israel, <u>what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God,</u> to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve*

[2] Our personal definition, first published in The Playbook.

*the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, **13** To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*

***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14* (KJV)** *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. **14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

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

***Proverbs 9:10* (KJV)** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.*

***Proverbs 16:6* (KJV)** *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

***Acts 9:31* (KJV)** *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*

2. Tormenting Fear

- Contrary to the Fear of the LORD, Tormenting fear is the dread and trepidation of death and judgment to come. Scripture says:

  ***Hebrews 9:27* (KJV)** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

  ***1 John 4:18* (KJV)** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

- "Torment" means punishment. Christians do not have to have this type of fear!

  ***Proverbs 14:27* (KJV)** *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*

  ***Hebrews 2:14-15* (KJV)** *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **15** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

- But most unsaved people, if they're honest, have this fear. Those without the "perfect love" of Christ SHOULD and DO fear coming punishment and judgment!
- Secular man spends much time and money trying to overcome it, but the fear is still there. Deep in the heart of mankind is the knowledge that we are eternal souls that will continue to exist after physical death.
- **When Christ is consistently rejected, this fear torments the human spirit, and is at the root, in my opinion, of many mental health issues, addictions, and propensities towards debauchery and lasciviousness.**

Falling into His Hands

- Our context describes the "fearful thing…"

> ***Hebrews 10:26-30*** ***(KJV)*** *For if we sin wilfully 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.* ***28*** *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.*

- We believe the statement "to fall into the hands," is an allusion or reference to God's final judgment upon the wicked. This brings us to the truths about **Hell.** It is:

> A Place of Unquenchable, Everlasting Fire and Torment
> ***Revelation 20:11-15*** ***(KJV)*** *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.* ***12*** *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.* ***13*** *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.* ***14*** *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* ***15*** *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*
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> ***Mark 9:43-44*** ***(KJV)*** *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:* ***44*** *Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*
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> ***Matthew 25:41*** ***(KJV)*** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*
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> ***Matthew 25:46*** ***(KJV)*** *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
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> A Place of Darkness, Weeping, and Gnashing of Teeth
> ***Matthew 13:40-42*** ***(KJV)*** *As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.* ***41*** *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;* ***42*** *And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*
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> ***Matthew 25:30*** ***(KJV)*** *And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
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> A Place of Conscience Torment

Luke 16:22-23* (KJV)** *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;* ***23 *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Revelation 14:10-11* (KJV)** *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:* ***11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

***Revelation 20:10* (KJV)** *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

The Living God!
The author writes that God is living! He isn't dead. He is alive! This may be meant to remind the hearer that:

1. The Living God sees… Their sin and rebellion!
2. The Living God knows… The state of their hearts!
3. The Living God acts… He will do what He promised!

We also need such reminders. Remember, the eyes of the LORD run to and fro through the whole earth! (Zec 4:10) He knows the thoughts of our hearts…evil continually! (Gen 6:5) He will hasten to perform His Word! (Jer 1:12; Ezek 12:25)

Are you Ready to Meet God?
Romans 14:11-12* (KJV)** *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.* ***12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

- You will stand before God and give an account of yourself…every thought, word, and deed. (Matt 12:36; 2 Cor 5:10)

- Beloved, you will either "fall into his hands" like today's Text describes, or be gathered by His arms into His bosom (Isa 40:11)!

- You will be tormented day and night OR serve Him day and night in His temple! (Rev 7:13-14)

- Choose this day whom ye will serve! (Josh 24:15; Matt 6:24)

Repent and Believe the Gospel! (Mark 1:15) Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved…from the wrath of God! (Acts 16:31; Rom 1:18, 2:5; Eph 5:6)

Amen!