

The Great Danger of Apostasy

Hebrews 10:26-31



A Warning Against Rejecting Christ (26-27)

Apostasy Defined:

Webster's: *"The renunciation of religious faith; the abandonment of a previous loyalty"*

MacArthur: *"An intentional falling away or withdrawal; a defection"*

A Warning Against Rejecting Christ (26-27)

- A Closer Look at Apostasy (26a-b)
 - It involves knowing the truth (26b)

“The persons described here are those who have much more than a passing acquaintance with the gospel. They know it well. An apostate has all the information. He lacks nothing intellectually. He has epignosis. He is among those who have ‘once been enlightened...tasted of the heavenly gift,’ and even ‘been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,’ Hebrews 6:4” - John MacArthur

A Warning Against Rejecting Christ (26-27)

- A Closer Look at Apostasy (26a-b)
 - It involves knowing the truth (26b)
 - It involves rejecting the truth (26a)

“The reference here is not to sins of ignorance or weakness, but to those that are planned out, determined, done with forethought... It is not only deliberate, but is an established way of thinking and believing. It is the permanent renunciation of the gospel, the permanent forsaking of God’s grace.” - MacArthur

A Warning Against Rejecting Christ (26-27)

- A Closer Look at Apostasy (26a-b)
 - It involves knowing the truth (26b)
 - It involves rejecting the truth (26a)
- To abandon Christ is to abandon the only hope of salvation (26c)
- Rejecting Christ brings certain destruction (27)

A Warning Against Rejecting Christ (26-27)

- A “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” - Matthew 13:49-50
- To “The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire dealing out retribution to those who do not know God
- Re and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power.” - 2 Thessalonians 7b-9

The Seriousness of the Offense (28-29)

- Basis for comparison: Deuteronomy 17:2-6 (28)
- Points of guilt for the one who has rejected Christ:
 - He has treated Christ with utter contempt (29a)
 - He regards the blood of the covenant as unclean (29b)
 - He has insulted the Holy Spirit (29c)

The Certainty of God's Judgment (30-31)

- God has revealed His character and He is true to what He says; He will judge, He will repay. (30)

“God’s own people are not exempt from His law that men and women reap what they sow. And this is confirmed in the next verse of Moses’ song that ‘Yahweh will judge His people.’ This certainly means that He will execute judgment on their behalf, vindicating their cause against their enemies, but it carries with it the corollary that, on the same principles of impartial righteousness, He will execute judgment against them when they forsake His covenant. What was true then remains true for God’s dealings with His people now.” - F.F. Bruce

The Certainty of God's Judgment (30-31)

- God has revealed His character and He is true to what He says; He will judge, He will repay. (30)
- The judgment of God for those who reject Christ can only be described as terrifying! (31)

Implications

1. The danger of apostasy is an issue in the church
2. We must encourage one another in the faith
3. We must examine ourselves, 2 Corinthians 13:5