



Remain Loyal | Part One

Lesson Six • Hebrews 10:26-31

- Where are we in the context of **Chapter 10**?

As believer-priests...

Who have complete confidence to enter into the most holy place... (19)

By means of wrath-satisfying blood of Jesus... (20)

On the basis of the sinless mediation of our great high priest and ruler over us as God's people... (21)

We take bold action to...

DRAW NEAR to God's holy presence with sincere hearts in the full assurance of faith... (22)

HOLD FAST to this hope we profess, because God is a faithful promise keeper... (23)

STAY CLOSE to one another, because the Day of Christ's drawing near is fast approaching. (24-25)

For IF we persist in willfully sinning by forsaking Jesus, our great High Priest, and forsaking God's people... (26a)

[By REFUSING to draw near with faith...to hold fast to hope...to stay close to one another as the habit of some had become]

all that remains for such a person is the certain expectation of frightening and fiery judgment at the hands of the living God! (26b-31)

Confidence to Enter into God's Holy Presence Is Shown by Taking Bold Action to **REMAIN LOYAL** as New Covenant Believer-Priests!

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries." Hebrews 10:26-27

- What's the **point** of verses 26-31? One of five **WARNING** passages in the Book of Hebrews!

What's the Big Idea?

*The person who **FALLS AWAY** from the faith is sure to **FALL INTO** the fiery judgment of the living God!*

*The person who **falls away** from Jesus as their great High Priest, **forsaking** His assembled people, will certainly **fall into** the hands of the living God, who is a consuming fire with terrifying judgment for His enemies.*

Two Initial Questions that Must Be Answered to Remain Loyal

1. What Is the **SIN** in This Warning?

"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth..." Hebrews 10:26

- More than just a **DELIBERATE/INTENTIONAL** sin.
- More than just **PERSISTING** in deliberate sin.
- This sin is the persistent, deliberate sinning of **APOSTASY**.

OT Background is found in **Numbers 15:27-31** and **Deuteronomy 17:2-7**.

- 1) This **apostasy** is defined and explained by what **precedes** verse 26.

"For..." points back to verses 19-25.

- 2) This **apostasy** is defined and explained by what **follows** verse 26.

"How much severer punishment do you think one will deserve who has..." (v. 29)

The Sin of Apostasy in This Warning Passage

Persisting in deliberately falling away from one's faith in Jesus as the great High Priest and forsaking the assembly of His people.

2. How Does This Persistent, Deliberate Sin of Apostasy OCCUR/HAPPEN?

- The **Progression** of the Warning Passages Increases

WARNING #1

"For this reason we must **pay much closer attention** to what we heard, so we don't **drift away** from it. For how will we escape if we **neglect** so great salvation? After it was first spoken..." (2:2-3)

WARNING #2

"Today if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts**...Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you **an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away** from the living God." (3:12)

WARNING #3

"Concerning [Melchizedek] we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**. For though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you have need for someone to teach you...milk not solid food...For in the case of those who have once been enlightened...and then have **fallen away**, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance..." (6:4-6)

WARNING #4

"For if we **go on sinning willfully** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of fire which will consume he adversaries...It is a terrifying thing fall into the hands of the living God." (10:26-27, 31)

WARNING #5

"See to it that you **do not refuse** [the God with the Unshakeable Kingdom] who is speaking. For if those [OT Rebels] did not escape when they refused [God] who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from [God] who warns from heaven...let us show gratitude, by which we offer to God an acceptable service [as Believer-Priests] with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." (12:25, 28-29)

Apostasy is a **SLOW FADE** that is fueled by a variety of obstacles in the race to the finish line!

The Five Warning Passages and the Progression of a "Slow Fade" into Apostasy				
NEGLECTING <i>The Danger of DRIFTING</i> Hebrews 2:1-4	HARDENING <i>The Danger of DISTRUSTING</i> Hebrews 3:1-4:13	STAGNATING <i>The Danger of DELAYING</i> Hebrews 5:11-6:20	FORSAKING <i>The Danger of DEPARTING</i> Hebrews 10:19-39	REFUSING <i>The Danger of DEFYING</i> Hebrews 12:1-29
APOSTATIZING – The Danger of DENYING FAITH in the THREE-IN-ONE GOD				

- The **Punishment** of the Warnings Intensifies
- The **Pattern** of the Warnings Is Instructive

The Five Warning Passages & the Pattern of Pastoral Exhortation for Potential Apostates				
The DESCRIPTION of Those Who Fall Away <i>Potential Apostates</i>	The NATURE of This Falling Away <i>The Apostasy</i>	The CONSEQUENCES of This Falling Away <i>God's Judgment on the Apostates and Their Apostasy</i>	The EXHORTATION to Persevering Faith <i>The Response of Perseverance and Refusal to Apostatize</i>	The REASSURANCE of Their Persevering Faith and God's Faithfulness <i>The Proof of True Believers Is God's Faithfulness to Preserve Them with a Persevering Faith</i>

Five Characteristics of Persevering Believer-Priests

1. Keep their faith **FIXATED** on Jesus.
2. Understand that perseverance involves their **TOTAL** person.
3. Diligently **GUARD** their hearts from being hardened with unbelief, evil disobedience, and bitterness.
4. Follow through on their faith commitment to the **VERY END**.
5. Remain fully convinced that perseverance is a **CONGREGATIONAL** affair.

As Believer-Priests...REMAIN LOYAL by DRAWING NEAR in Faith. HOLDING FAST to the Hope We Proffess, and STAYING CLOSE to One Another in Love as We Assemble Together All the More as the Day Draws Near!