

Studies in Hebrews



Lesson XVI

Text: Chapter 10, verses 19-39 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[a] and again, "The Lord will judge his people."^[b] ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. ³⁸ But my righteous one^[c] will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."^[d] ³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Footnotes: a. Deut. 32:35 b Deut. 32:36; Psalm 135:14 c. One early manuscript: *But the righteous* d. Hab. 2:3,4

Questions for Group Discussion

1. Verse 25 is a long standing favorite scripture of preachers, used to motivate people to attend church services (“every time the door is open”). How does the admonition to “forsake not the assembling of yourselves together” (KJV) fit into the larger context of the chapter? What is the purpose of the Christian public assembly? (cf. vv 23-24)
2. This chapter, among others, was written to dissuade J_____ believers from returning to J_____. Is it possible for a Christian to apostatize (fall away) from his or her faith? Under what circumstances? (vv. 26-31)
3. What does the phrase “deliberating keep on singing” (“sin willfully,” NKJV) mean? What does it not mean? (vs. 26a).
4. What did the believers in verses 32-34 go through for their identification with Jesus?
5. According to verses 35-37, what guarantees that we will receive the promises of God?
6. Read verses 38-39. Which group do you belong to?