



Lesson 44

Lesson 44: Perfected and Perfecting

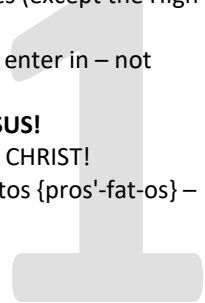
Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-39

Therefore (v. 19)

- The writer of Hebrews is concluding his arguments and now is coming to conclusions.
 - ☞ (vv. 1-10) **By the will of God** Christ came into the world, offered Himself **once for all** (never to be repeated) and because of this we are **sanctified** (PERFECT tense; PASSIVE voice).
 - ☞ (vv. 11-12) Christ's sacrifice for sin FINISHED God's work that Christ was sent to do. Christ's sacrifices **indeed removed sin!**
 - ☞ (v. 14) By His one offering Christ **PERFECTED** (PERFECT tense; ACTIVE voice)
 - "being sanctified" (PRESENT tense) can be translated "those who **are** sanctified" (see v.10) or "those who are **being** sanctified". (See Hebrews 2:11; 13:12; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Jude 1)
 - ☞ (vv. 16-18) By His one offering Christ **ratified** God's **promise or covenant** with us.
- Because of these FACTS or TRUTHS **THEREFORE . . .**

Enter In (v. 19-21)

- Entrance into the HOLIEST (Holy of Holies; Most Holy Place; the presence of God) was forbidden for even the Levites (except the High Priest and that only once a year).
- BUT because of Christ's one offering saints can boldly enter in – not timidly or with fear – but with **CONFIDENCE**.
- **NOT JUST AS I AM – BUT ONLY BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!**
- (John 14:6) NO ONE COME TO THE FATHER **except BY CHRIST!**
- (v. 20) "a NEW way" – "new" is πρόσφατος prosphatos {pros'-fat-os} – which literally means "freshly slaughtered"



- Jesus is the **ONLY** way – John 14:6 (see Isaiah 35:8-9)
- The way to God is only through Christ. (Acts 4:12; Matt 7:13-14)
- (v. 20) “a **LIVING** way” – Christ’s death gives **LIFE!**
 - Christ is the **LIVING BREAD** (John 6:51), the **LIVING WATER** (John 4:10-11), the **LIVING STONE** (1 Peter 2:4), and here He is the **LIVING WAY!**
- (v. 20) “**HE** consecrated *for us*” – It was **ALL** Christ’s work.
- (v. 20) “through the veil, that is, His flesh”
 - When Christ died **GOD** tore the veil in the Temple — symbolically that by Christ’s death God’s people now have free access to Him.
 - Matthew 27:51
- (v. 21) “having a **GREAT** (μέγας megas {meg'-as}) **PRIEST!**”
 - Our **HIGH PRIEST** is *over* the “house of God.”
 - “over” denotes His headship, lordship, and authority!
 - Christ presides **OVER ALL** of His Church – the house or family of God.
 - Christ **adds** to His Church those whom **HE** saves.
 - As the wife is to be subject to her husband in all things, so the members of the “house of God” or “body of Christ” or “bride of Christ” are to be subject to Christ.
 - We are to **OBEY** Him! And to **HIM** we must give an account!

Let Us! (vv. 22-25)

- ❶ **(Faith) LET US DRAW NEAR . . .** (v. 22)
 - “to draw near” was and is a *priestly* duty. Christ has made us **PRIESTS!** (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6)
 - “with a **TRUE** heart” – not a **DOUBTING, DOUBLE, or HYPOCRITICAL** heart. Christ is the One who “tries the hearts . . .” (1 Chronicles 29:17' Psalm 7:9; Proverbs 17:3; Jeremiah 11:20; 1 Thessalonians 2:4)
 - God expects **TRUTH** in the **INWARD** parts. (Psalm 51:6; 1 Samuel 16:7)
 - “in the fullness of faith” – **in the sufficiency of Christ’s work – not anything in ME!**
 - Faith looks away from **SELF** and to the **GREAT PRIEST.**
 - Christ’s offering **CLEANSSES** our **INSIDES!!!**
 - “washing” see Titus 3:5 and Ephesians 5:26.



- ② **(Hope) LET US HOLD FAST . . .** (v. 24)
 - These words implies that it is NOT EASY!!
 - The confession of our **HOPE** (ἐλπίς elpis {el-pece'}) – Christ is our HOPE! (Romans 8:24-25; Colossians 1:27; 1 Tim. 1:1; Titus 2:13)
 - “without wavering”
 - OUR HOPE is in GOD’S PROMISE!!! (1 Thessalonians 5:24)
- ③ **(Love) LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER . . .** (vv. 24-25)
 - “to stir up love and good works” – **We need each other to be encouraged!**
 - “not forsaking the assembling” – In gathering together we are strengthened but when we forsake the assembling of ourselves we are weakened!
 - We need to **exhort and encourage** one another.

Five Warnings in Hebrews



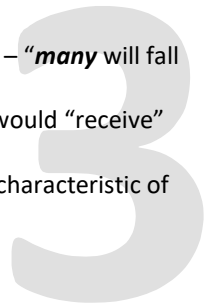
- ① The **DANGER** of Neglect (Hebrews 2:1-4)
- ② The **DANGER** of Unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13) (not entering His rest)
- ③ The **DANGER** of Not Maturing (Hebrews 5:11-6:20)
- ④ The **DANGER** of Drawing Back (Hebrews 10:26-39)
- ⑤ The **DANGER** of Refusing God (Hebrews 12:25-29)

What is APOSTASY – the Drawing Back?

- DEFINITION: “Apostasy is an *intentional* falling away or withdrawal, a defection.”

Warnings of APOSTASY in the End-Times

- (2 Thessalonians 2:3) Paul warns that “the” apostasy must first come before the coming of Christ.
- (Matthew 24:10) Jesus warned us in a similar manner – “*many* will fall away”.
- (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23) Jesus warned us that many would “receive” Him *for awhile* and never really produce any fruit.
- (1 Timothy 4:1-2) Paul tells us that apostasy will be a characteristic of the last days!



WHO Does This Section Pertain To? (v. 26)

- “*We*” – the safest way to interpret this passage is to include **anyone who has ever made a profession of faith**.
- “*If*” – the writer does not say that any **had fallen** into this sin but is giving a stern **WARNING** so that **all** would examine their own faith. (2 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Peter 1:10)

Who Can Commit Apostasy?

- **UNBELIEVERS** cannot commit this sin.
- **BELIEVERS** cannot commit this sin.
- “**MAKE BELIEVERS**” - those who have made some kind of profession (confession) of Christ but are truly NOT believers. They truly believe that they are believers! (See Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; 1 John 2:15-17; John 14:15 with 1 Corinthians 16:22; John 14:21-24; 15:10-14; Luke 11:28; 1 John 2:3-5; 5:1-3)

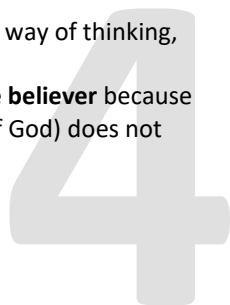
Characteristics of Apostasy (v. 26)

① Knowledge of the TRUTH

- “knowledge” is ἐπίγνωσις epignosis {ep-ig'-no-sis} which literally means “true knowledge”; “real knowledge” or “precise knowledge.”
- A person who has never heard the truth or one who has heard a lie **cannot** commit the sin of apostasy.
- Only a person who has heard the TRUTH can apostatize!

② Willful Rejection of the TRUTH

- “to sin” in this verse is in the PRESENT tense and conveys the idea of **continuous** action.
- “willfully” is ἑκουσίως hekousios {hek-oo-see'-ose}
 - The writer is not talking about sins of ignorance or weakness.
 - He is writing about sins that are deliberate, planned out, and continuous.
 - It is not a one time or occasional sin, but a way of thinking, believing and living. It is habitual.
- A person who “lives” like this **cannot** be a **true believer** because one who has been **truly** born-again (born of God) does not **practice** sin. (1 John 3:9)

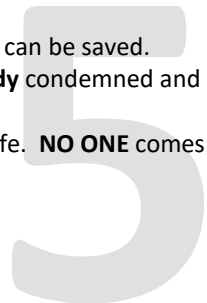


Why Would Anyone Apostasy?

- ① **Persecution** (Matthew 24:9-10; 13:21)
 - For a true believer, persecution draws him **closer** to God and the **true** Church.
 - For an unbeliever, persecution drive him **away** from God and the **true** Church and in some cases, turn him **against** the Church.
 - **WARNING**: Just because one suffers persecution does not make him/her a Christian! MANY for DIED for a FALSE GOSPEL!
- ② **False Teachers** (Matthew 24:11)
 - Persecution scares unbelievers away while false teachers seduce unbelievers away.
 - See Jude 3-4.
 - Unbelievers will not endure **sound doctrine** and will follow **fables** (lies). (2 Timothy 4:1-4)
- ③ **Temptation** (Matthew 13:22)
 - The things of the world **draw** unbelievers back into it.
 - **DEMAS** is a perfect example. He accompanied Paul on one of his missionary trips (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24 “my fellow laborer”), but later fell back “in love” with the world (2 Timothy 4:10 with 1 John 2:15-17).
- ④ **Neglect** (Hebrews 2:3)
 - Putting off a decision for Christ is deciding **against** Christ.
 - Neglecting the means of perseverance: prayer, the Word, and being an active serving member of a local church.
- ⑤ **Clinging to Tradition or Another False Religion**
 - This is probably the greatest stumbling block!
 - See Matthew 15:1-9
- ⑥ **Forsaking Christian Fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25)
 - The best place to persevere or to go unto maturity is in the fellowship of real born-again believers.

Consequences of Apostasy (vv. 26-31)

- ① There remains no other sacrifice for sin.
 - Acts 4:12 – There is no other name by which one can be saved.
 - John 3:18, 36 – He who does not believe is **already** condemned and the wrath of God **abides** on him **now**.
 - John 14:6 – Jesus is **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life. **NO ONE** comes to the Father **except** by Christ.



- 1 Timothy 2:5 – There is **only one** Mediator between God and man.
- 1 John 5:11-12 – Life (eternal) is in the Son. He who has the Son has life. He who does not have the Son does not have eternal life.
- ② Apostasy bring GREATER Judgment (vv. 27-29)
 - The Bible teaches that **greater** the sin the **greater** the judgment.
 - See John 19:11; Luke 12:47-48
 - **CONSIDER CAREFULLY ACTS 17:30-31.** God is not **MORE** tolerant of sin today – He is **LESS** tolerant!

Total Rejection of the Godhead (v. 29)

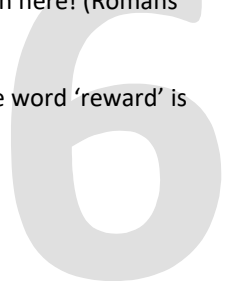
- **GOD the FATHER:** to scorn; make light of; to laugh at; to count as worthless (literal meanings of “to trample under foot”) **the SON** is to do the SAME to the Father. (See Luke 10:16; John 5:23; 8:19; 10:30; 15:23-24; 1 John 2:22-23; 2 John 9)
- **GOD the SON:** “the Son of God . . . counted the blood of the covenant by which He was sanctified . . .”
- **GOD the SPIRIT:** “the Spirit of grace”

“Vengeance Is Mine! I Will Repay!” (vv. 30-31)

- For those who at one time professed Christ as their Lord and Saviour, but now “trample” Him under foot, will have to pay by helplessly falling into the hands of the living God!
- Those who continuously willfully apostatize have this **promise!**

Avoiding Apostasy (vv. 31-39)

- (vv. 31-34) **Remember your “first love”** (Revelation 2:4) after you were “illuminated” – intellectually! (Remember those in Matt 13:20-22)
 - They suffered persecution and tribulation and were companions of those who suffer the same thing. (Consider Matthew 5:11-12)
 - They joyfully accepted the plundering of their homes.
 - They knew their inheritance was in heaven, kept safe by God, and that **it** grossly outweighed any suffering down here! (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Acts 20:24)
- (vv. 35-36) **Remember the PROMISE!** (See 10:23)
 - Rewards are GRACE. See Genesis 15:1 when the word ‘reward’ is used for the first time!



- Endurance is NEEDED. (Matthew 24:13; 10:22; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:6, 14)
- It is possible for someone to know the promise(s), rejoice in the promises, and even suffer for the promises!!
- (vv. 37-39) **Remember He Will Come and Make Everything Right**
 - Keep looking for Christ's return.
 - The "righteous one" or the "just one" – LIVE by FAITH! Faith in the Word of God. (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11)
 - ★ **THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED LIVE BY FAITH!**
(1 John 2:29; 3:3, 7, 10; Matthew 17:16-18; Titus 2:12-14)
 - "live" is in the FUTURE tense signifying a continuance of believing, repenting, and doing.
 - **"The constant exercise of faith by the saint is as essential to his final salvation as it was to his initial salvation."**
- **NOTE CAREFULLY:** The Holy Spirit does not say, "But if he draws back, My soul *will have no more* pleasure in him."
 - The writer of Hebrews believes that he is writing to those who will persevere to the end.

Protect Oneself DAILY

- **PRAYER** - See Psalm 19:13; Matthew 6:13; 26:41
- **EXAMINING ONESELF** - 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Corinthians 7:1
- **TESTING:** See 1 John ("if" 21x; "know" 31x)
- **AVOIDING:** 1 Thessalonians 5:21-23
- **DENYING SELF:** Titus 2:12
- **DYING DAILY:** Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 15:31
- **FOLLOWING:** Luke 9:23; John 4:34; Matthew 12:50
- **GROW:** 2 Peter 1:5-10; 2 Peter 3:17-18

