

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 16

Hebrews 10 v26 - 39

Key Text - v39

Key Question – Which are we? Are we of those who shrink back and are destroyed, or are we of those who persevere and are saved?

Context (with respect to the whole book) - see - 2 v1. There were those who had drifted away. See - v25a. They were no longer to be seen at worship. These people could be put into 2 groups....

(i) There were those who were going back

Going back to the Jewish religion out of which they had come.

(ii) There were those who were giving up

They were throwing in the towel!

Note - All that the writer says here he says with a very real sense of urgency in the light of the Day of eternity. See (context) - v25b. In other words, this whole matter (this question) of whether we're going to shrink back or go on needs to be dealt with now.

In pressing this question upon us, the writer gives us 2 things:-

1. HE GIVES US A FEARFUL, YET NECESSARY WORD OF WARNING

See - v26 - 27. To understand what the writer is saying here, we need to ask 3 questions about the people of whom he's speaking:-

A. WHO ARE THEY?

Were they true Christians who had lost their salvation? This cannot be! See, for example - Rom 3 v38, Jn 10 v27, Phil 1 v10. They were those, rather, who at one time professed to be Christians - but they had never been the real thing.

B. WHAT HAD THEY DONE?

The writer underlines 2 things here with the respect to the God who they had formerly professed:-

(i) They had rejected the truth of God

See - v26a. What was this truth? See - v19 - 22. It was the truth of God's word - the truth of the gospel. The evidence that they were not living for this truth was now clear. See - v26. They were deliberately and continually indulging in sin. See - 1 Jn 3 v6

(ii) They had disdained the Son of God

Look at how strong the language is here, with respect to:-

The person of the Son - v29a

The work of the Son - v29b

The Spirit of the Son - v29c

See - Mark 3 v29. This is the blasphemy (the sin) against the Holy Spirit.

C. WHAT CAN THEY EXPECT?

Judgement! See - v26 - 31.

Application - see - 1 Pet 1 v10

2. HE GIVES US A WONDERFUL, AND TIMELY WORD OF EXHORTATION

Key Question - What do we need to do if we are going through a hard and difficult time?

A. WE NEED TO LOOK TO THE PAST

See - v32. Note - not just that they had been able to stand, but what God had done in them as a fellowship:-

Their fellowship had been deepened - v33

Their compassion had been stirred - v34a

Their resilience had been strengthened - v34b

Key Question - Why were they able to bear all this? See - v34c

B. WE NEED TO LIVE FOR THE FUTURE

See - v35 - 38 & 11 v13 - 16. We persevere in the present because, in Jesus, we have a hope and future.