

“Never Give In!” Hebrews 10:26-39

On October 29, 1941, Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited Harrow School to hear the traditional songs he had sung there as a youth, as well as to speak to the students. This became one of his most quoted speeches. In his conclusion he admonished the students,

“Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”

This speech has been repeated in many different settings because life is hard and we need encouragement to press on...in every area of life: school, marriage, work, friendships, relationship with the Lord.

Never give in. Never abandon Jesus Christ. He is worthy of our loyalty because He is...

- God-man
- Leader – leads us into rest
- King-priest
- Better priesthood, covenant, tabernacle, sacrifice

Qualified to worship; holy ones, saints, sanctified

10:19-25: Exhortation – Draw near

10:26-31: Warning – opposite of drawing near is abandoning Christ

I. Is this warning for me?

- Posers (appeared to have eternal life but prove they never had it)
- Losers (had eternal life but lose eternal life)
- ✓ Quitters (v. 6, have eternal life but stopped maturing)
- ✓ Defectors (v. 10, have eternal life but abandon their confession; turn their backs on Christ)

Hebrews: direct references to audience as believers; includes self in warnings

➤ Preceding

10:19 – “brethren”

➤ Subsequent

10:32 – after being enlightened

10:36 – endurance, not faith

10:38 – My righteous one

➤ Immediate

10:26 – “we”

10:26 – “knowledge of the truth”; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:25; 3:7;

Titus 1:1; 4 times in pastoral epistles

10:29 – “by which he was sanctified”; 2:11; 3:1; 3:12; 10:14; 13:22

“The sanctification which his people receive...is their inward cleansing from sin and their being made fit for the presence of God, so that henceforth they can offer him acceptable worship. It is a sanctification which has taken place once for all; in this sense it is as unrepeatable as the sacrifice which effects it.” F.F. Bruce, p. 243

10:30 – “His people”

This could never happen to me. Hard to imagine, but we are all at risk. Warning signs – LAZY, LONER CHRISTIANITY

Student don’t attend university expecting to flunk out.

Couples don’t get married expecting to end in divorce.

No one begins spiritual pilgrimage expecting to fall away. Begins with excitement. Drift is slow at the beginning. We are all at risk. Most at risk if we think this could never happen.

II. What is this sin?

Every verse in 10:26-31 involves a quotation or allusion from OT

➤ “Hold fast” – 3:6, 14; 4:14; 10:23; opposite is not merely to let go but to willfully reject

Hebrews 10:26-28

➤ “Willful sin” – Numbers 15:30-31

“by a high hand” = “by an arrogant or defiant hand”

“cut off” = put to death; Ex. 31:14

No offering available but the expectation of death

Hebrews 10:26 – no longer remains a sacrifice for sins

Ps. 51:1-4, 14-17

➤ “How much severer...” – 10:29; Lesser to the greater argument

A corresponding New Testament sin that is worthy of more than capital punishment.

Many words for punishment (τιμωρίας); only here in NT; verb Acts 22:5; 26:11; never hell; torture

Threefold description of their sin:

- A. “trampling under foot the son of God”
- B. “regarding as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified”
- C. “insulting the Spirit of grace”

Not momentary lapse of faith, but hardened rejection

III. What are the consequences? Hebrews 10:29-31

God judges His own people –

10:30 – Dt. 32; God’s judgment of His people for idolatry

10:31 – David’s sin of the census

Amos 3:2; 1 Peter 4:17

Are these fires of Hell? (What are we to do with FIRE in 10:27?)

Heb. 10:27; Is. 26:11 – God’s judgment against His covenant people

Fire in the OT – Nadab and Abihu; sons of Korah

Fire in the NT – 1 Cor. 3:12-15

What could be worse than death?

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
—1 Peter 4:17

Psychological torment in this life – 1 Sam. 16:14-15; Saul; Jonah

Wandering aimlessly, disoriented throughout the remainder of your life; e.g. wilderness generation

Physical torment in this life – Job

Goal: Enter into our Leader's REST

10:37 – “the day”

Future kingdom, new Jerusalem, kingdom which cannot be shaken

Shame at the judgment seat of Christ – 1 John 2:28

IV. Is it worth the struggle?

10:32-33; Past faithfulness; you have made it so far, don't quit now
10:34-36; Future reward

Conclusion

Could this happen to me?

Warning signs:

Lazy Christianity

Loner Christianity

One job; finish well; remain faithful

Do your friends and family know where you stand? Do you blend in, or do you stand out for Jesus Christ.

Pressures come; never give in.

If you have failed in the past, START AGAIN TODAY