

---

# Rejecting Christ

## Part 2

Hebrews 10:26-39

---

*“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that*

*shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”*

### INTRODUCTION:

- **All the way through the book of Hebrews Paul has been calling those Jews who were sitting on the wall—to “come over” and truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**
  - **These Jews had been given incredible revelation from God**
  - **They had heard the gospel directly from the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Hebrews 2:3-4**—*“how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”*

- **God confirmed the gospel through signs and wonders**
- **In Hebrews 6—Paul says...**

*“were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted of the heavenly gift**, and were made **partakers of the Holy Ghost**, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God**, and the **powers of the world to come**”*

- **They had been given great exposure to the workings of God revolving around the gospel**
  - **They had been given the gospel in a very clear way (once enlightened)**
  - **They have tasted of the gift of eternal life (they got a foretaste of salvation)**
  - **They were closely associated with the workings of the Holy Spirit in their lives**
  - **They heard some of the greatest preaching the world has ever had (tasted of the good word of God)**
  - **They saw God's power manifested in the lives of people (people being transformed) (powers of the world to come)**
- **And to add to it—these Jews had this great doctrinal thesis on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ—the book of Hebrews**
  - **How that He is greater than the angels**
  - **How He is greater than Moses**
  - **How He is greater than Aaron**
  - **How He is greater than Old Testament sacrificial system**

- **The Jews that Paul was writing to had more exposure to the person of Christ—than anyone in their past had ever had**
- **And yet, with all the exposure they had been given—they were still sitting on the wall of unbelief**
  - **In chapter 2—Paul said they were neglecting so great a salvation**
    - **They were letting the things that they had heard slip away from their hearts—like a ship slowly passing by the harbor—and never coming in to anchor**
  - **In chapter 3—Paul says that not only were they neglecting to respond—but they were beginning to harden their heart to the pleadings of the Lord**
    - **They were getting to a place of danger where the Lord would keep them from entering in to His salvation rest that He wanted them to have**
  - **In chapter 5—Paul speaks of them digressing in their reception of the gospel**
    - **They have been exposed for so long—that it is getting harder**

for them to understand the gospel

- They have become like children in need of milk rather than strong meat
  - They can't even handle the full revelation of Christ in the gospel—because they have gotten so “dull of hearing”
- And then in chapter 6—Paul gives that fearful warning—
- That if they keep neglecting
  - If they keep hardening their heart
  - If they keep becoming more dull of hearing
  - That if they fall away—that it will become impossible for them to be renewed again to repentance
  - In other words—Paul is saying is saying that they are coming to the threshold of God's patience with them
  - They have continually heard and heard and heard—and they are in danger of...
    - Falling away completely
    - Sealing their fate for eternity

- Falling away to NEVER RETURN

**Hebrews 6:4-6**—“*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance*”

- There is a danger of being so exposed to truth—and rejecting it

- **Apostasy**—“*is the act of rebelling against, forsaking, abandoning, or falling away from what one has believed.*”
- As we pointed out last time—all the way through the Bible there are apostates—people who have been exposed to truth about the Lord—and have turned their back upon it
- But one of the most popular examples of it we see is in Matthew 12

**Matthew 12:22-32**—“*Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. 23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?*

*24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*

*25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every***

*kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: 26 and if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? 27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. 30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. 31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”*

#### **Explanation of the Example Text:**

- **Jesus had just cast out a devil out of someone—so much so that this man was no longer bound in sight or tongue**
  - **He could both speak and see**
- **The people seeing this—saw this as a sign that this man, Jesus, was indeed the Son of David—the Messiah**

- **But the religious leaders would have nothing to do with that—they didn't want the people pulled into following after this man Jesus**
- **They said to the people...**

*“This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.”*

- *“He didn't do this miracle in the power of God”*
- *“He did it in the power of Satan”*
- *“He is being used of Satan to deceive you—don't listen to him!”*
- **Jesus rebuked them—showing them their absolute foolishness**
  - **Kingdoms divided against themselves fall**
  - **And Satan is not fighting against himself—or his kingdom would collapse**
  - **And if he was casting out devils in the power of Satan—then what does that say about your children (spiritual leaders)—who claim to have such power**
  - **It would take One stronger than Satan—to deliver someone from Satan's power**
  - **Jesus was greater than Satan—the Kingdom of God had indeed come**
- **Then Jesus points out the gravity of what they were doing**

- He said that God forgives all sin that is done out of ignorance of who Jesus is—“*The Son of Man*”

- That speaks of his humanity
- Many do not completely understand Who Jesus is—and may say things in ignorance against Him

- Those things can be forgiven

- But blasphemy against the Spirit of God **WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN**

- It is the Spirit of God—that unveils the person of Christ to the lost sinner
- He makes it clear Who Jesus really is
- And once a person understands Him to be more than a man—God revealed in flesh—and they sin against that knowledge—attributing it to being worthless or even demonic— it will not be forgiven them

- The knowledge that the Spirit of God gives—is to exalt Jesus for Who He really is

- He is the Christ the Son of the Living God

- And the blasphemy that they were doing—was not blasphemy in ignorance—it was blasphemy in the face of **FULL REVELATION**

- They knew who Jesus was
- There was no denying it
- And yet they completely rejected that knowledge—calling him a devil

- That’s what these Hebrews—who had sat on the fence of unbelief for so long—were about to be guilty of doing

- They were about to fall away from the full revelation of Christ
- Putting him to an open shame—crucifying the Son of God afresh
- Joining hands with the very people who reject Christ—who want him dead

- Paul, in this passage, defines out what the sin of apostasy is
- And how God’s wrath is revealed toward this sin
- And what we need to do to avoid it

**CIT:** What is the Sin of Apostasy?

**I. Apostasy is the Willful Abandonment of Understood Truth** (vs. 26a)—“*For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth*”

## A. Apostasy Biblically Defined

1. Apostasy is a willful turning from the knowledge of the truth (the gospel—and all that is entailed with it)—to cling tight to sin
2. The word *knowledge*

a. In the NT there are 2 words for *knowledge*

- i. *Gnosis*—which deals with ordinary knowledge—and even spiritual knowledge
- ii. And *epignosis*—which denotes FULL KNOWLEDGE, understanding, and discernment

b. The word Paul uses here in this passage is *epignosis*

- i. As previously mentioned, these Hebrews had been given a complete understanding of what it meant to be saved
- ii. The Spirit of God had been very active in leading them into an adequate understanding of who Jesus really was—and why they needed to turn from OT Judaism and embrace Christ completely
- iii. No doubt, God had given to them great teachers and preachers

of the Word of God (such as Paul—who most-likely is the writer of Hebrews)

c. Their understanding was very clear

- i. They had been hearing for so long—that they should be teaching others by now
- ii. Being so closely associated with the truth Paul said that they had **tasted of it**, they had been **enlightened with it**, they had been **drawn very close** to it

## B. The Danger of Knowing Truth

1. If you are exposed to truth—and do nothing with it—it begins to become dull to your heart

a. The first time you hear the gospel—the Spirit of God begins to work on your heart—and **you are moved in your heart about your sin, and your need for righteousness**

- i. But instead of responding by faith—you put what God did in your heart on the backburner
- ii. You let it begin to cool down
- iii. And soon it wasn't as convicting as it once was

iv. Now you could hear the gospel over and over and over—and it doesn't do anything for you

**NOTE:** You are beginning to become “DULL OF HEARING.”

You are becoming dull to the convicting work of the Spirit.

Instead of being changed by the truth—you have become inoculated by it.

## 2. Continued Exposure to the Truth

a. A lot of times—people who respond to the gospel in such a way—don't just up and leave—but they continue in coming to church

b. They might even be so closely associated with the people of the church—that we might even be persuaded that they are saved

i. That's what many of these Hebrews were like

ii. They hadn't quit coming to the assembly of the church—but they weren't genuine believers either

iii. They were like what Jesus taught in the parable of Matthew 13—the seed that fell on stony ground

- From above the ground it appeared that they were genuine
- The seed even began to germinate—and the plant had begun to grow
- But because the ground was stony ground—the plant had no place for the root to grow
- And when the sun came out—the plant withered and died
- Jesus said the person that represents is one whose faith is shallow—it appears for a time to be genuine—but when hardship comes for their faith—they are offended and fall away
- That is what Paul is concerned about for these Hebrews—that some of them were only hanging on because there was no cost
- But when it got too expensive—they would fall away—**and never come back**

## C. The Sin of the Hebrews

1. The sin of the Hebrews was to hold on blindly to OT Judaism—and reject the truth they knew of Christ
2. It wasn't that they didn't have enough knowledge—it was that they feared being left out

a. As we have continually said—to be a Christian in that culture—would be very costly

- i. It meant to turn your back on everything you knew
- ii. Their whole culture revolved around their religion
- iii. And if they became a believer in Jesus—as the Christ—they could become an outcast in almost every part of their life
- iv. For some—the cost to be a Christian was too high

b. But that is what everyone of us are called to

- i. To surrender our life for Christ

**Matthew 16:24-26**—*“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and*

*lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

## **I. Apostasy is the Willful Abandonment of Understood Truth**

**II. Apostasy Will Most Assuredly Bring God's Wrath (vs. 26b-31)**—*“there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

**A. Apostasy Cuts Us Off From the Only Source of Salvation**—*“there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins”*

1. For a person to be so exposed to the person and work of Christ—and yet willfully fall away from that truth—will cut them off permanently

a. At this point, Paul is referring to an OT principle that they would have been familiar with

- i.** There were 2 types of sin that people could commit—sins of **ignorance** and sins of **presumption**
- ii.** Sin of ignorance are those that are done without adequate understanding of God’s standard
- iii.** But sins of presumption are those sins that are committed with complete understanding of what expects

**b.** The OT Scriptures

**Numbers 15:28**—“*And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the Lord, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.*”

- i.** If one commits a sin in ignorance—God will allow for that person to have a sacrifice to be offered—so that he can be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God and the people
- ii.** But if he goes in willful stubborn unbelief—listen what God says

**Numbers 15:30-31**—“*But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he hath*

*despised the word of the Lord, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.*”

- There remains no sacrifice such willful rejection of God’s revealed truth
- The example given...

**Numbers 15:32-35**—“*And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. 33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. 34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. 35 And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. 36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses.*”

- c.** So Paul’s point was—for someone to be so exposed to the things of Christ—and to willfully turn their back upon it—is for them to cut themselves off any possibility of salvation

**I Timothy 1:12-15**—“*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 13 who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with*

*faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

*15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*

**Luke 23:34**—“*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*”

### **B. Apostasy Guarantees God’s Severe Wrath—**

*“but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

*28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy”*

1. All that remains is fiery judgment for the willful unbeliever
  - a. A lot of people say that God in the OT was much more severe than God is in the NT
  - b. But the truth is that God is more severe with his judgment in the NT than He was in the OT
    - i. That’s what Paul’s point is here
    - ii. If God had people put to death without mercy who despised his law in the OT—how much more do we think God will do to those who been given so much more knowledge

**iii.** In some sense, the OT time was a time of ignorance

- The full revelation of Christ had not yet come
- And people had all sorts of ideas of what Christ would be like
- But it was a time of ignorance

**Acts 17:30-31**—“*And the times of this ignorance God winked at (he overlooked); but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained”*

- iv. Paul is telling them—that we are no longer in a time of Ignorance
- v. To fall away from Christ—cannot be classified as ignorance—but willful unbelief

### 2. What they are considered

- a. People who fall away from Christ are called *Adversaries*
- b. They are enemies to God and His Christ
- c. God looks at willful unbelief as defiance against His authority

d. And all that is reserved for one who has been so exposed to Christ—and yet said no—is the severest of God’s judgment

**Matthew 11:20-24**—“*Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: (They have been greatly exposed to the truth of Christ) 21 woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.*”

**John 19:11**—“*Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*”

**C. Apostasy is a Full Rejection of the Person of God**—“*who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*”

## 1. It is a Rejection of the Son of God

a. Apostasy treats **Jesus’ person** as unworthy—“*who hath trodden under foot the Son of God*”

i. Trodding Him under our feet

- Kicking Him down to the ground and walking all over Him

ii. Instead of bowing to Him as King and Lord God—he is treated as garbage—unworthy for us to acknowledge

b. Apostasy treats **Jesus’ sacrifice** as unworthy—“*and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing*”

i. Jesus was “set apart” (sanctified) to offer his life’s blood as the payment to enact the NEW COVENANT that God promised in the OT

ii. For someone to fall away—is for them to count what He did on the cross as **unworthy—and unholy**

c. Apostasy is a full out rejection of Christ

- i. Declaring Jesus to be less than who He really is
- ii. Just like the Pharisees did in Matthew 12

- Calling Jesus a devil
- And as Paul said earlier—  
“Putting him to an open shame”

2. It is a Rejection of the Spirit of God—*“and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”*

a. The Spirit of God has been instrumental in working in the hearts of the Hebrews

- i. In fact, without His working in their heart, they couldn’t even be saved
- ii. And His work has been done for the sheer purpose of extending God’s grace to them

- That’s why He is called the Spirit of Grace

b. And for them to fall away—is for them to despise the goodness of the Spirit of God

- i. To despise His grace
- ii. To despise His love for them
- iii. To despise His kindness that He has shown

3. It is a Rejection of the God of the Word—  
*“For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

- a. Apostasy is to reject that God Who sent His Son to die for our sin
- b. Apostasy is to reject the God Who sent His Spirit to convince the sinner of His need for Christ
- c. Apostasy is to reject the God Who has been longsuffering and gracious towards the sinner
- d. Apostasy is to take lightly the severity of God’s wrath

- i. He is a God of vengeance
- ii. He is a God who will repay
- iii. He is a God who will act as judge
- iv. He is a God who fearful to meet in His anger

**I. Apostasy is the Willful Abandonment of Understood Truth**

## II. Apostasy Will Bring God's Severest Wrath

**III. Apostasy Can Be Avoided (vs. 32-39)**—*“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*

*35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”*

**A. Looking Back**—*“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.”*

1. Paul tells these Hebrews to look back to the “former days” in which they were first illuminated—to remind them of what they had already given up for such a close connection with Christ

**a. Even though they were not yet genuine believers**—some of them, because they were in close connection with Christ and His people—had begun to feel **the costs of being a genuine believer**

- i. They began to go **through trials** with the other believers of the flock
- ii. They had even been put on open display (made a gazingstock) before the unbelieving world
  - Because of the trials they were facing
  - And for being closely identified with Christ and His people
- iii. They even took part in demonstrating compassion towards Paul—who had been imprisoned for his faith
- iv. Some of them had even had their property seized for their connection to Christ

- Rejoicing with them—that they had a greater and enduring substance awaiting them in heaven
- That the things of this world were temporary anyway

**NOTE:** Everything at this point—that Paul has been saying about their past—seems to tell us that these people that he has been warning **to not fall away** were **very closely associated with genuine believers**.

And that’s what had already said back in Hebrews 6—“*were once enlightened, and have **tasted** of the heavenly gift, and were **made partakers** of the Holy Ghost, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.***”

But still they were lacking genuine saving faith. They were still clinging on to OT Judaism as a last ditch hope—just in case things did not work out with this “Christianity” thing. They had not completely turned from their old lives to embrace the new life in Christ.

Obviously the trials they had already faced—because they were in close association with these believers had not been enough to pull them away.

But it was only going to get worse. And the costs to serve Christ would only get higher. Were they going to be ready? Or were they going to fall away—never to come back, losing everything they had started to give up for Christ?

Paul tells them to look back to all that they had already given up for their close association with Christ—and completely embrace Him with all their heart.

**B. Looking Forward**—“*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*”

1. Paul now points them to the reward ahead

- a. They had placed a certain amount of confidence in Christ—but not enough to save them
- b. They had been drawn in—but because of fear of men—they had not completely believed

- i. **Intellectually**—they were believers
- ii. But their heart was still holding on to their past faith
- iii. And because they had been exposed for so long, **they were becoming dull of hearing**—their **heart was hardening in unbelief**—and they were being tempted to pull away completely from Him—and all the confidence

that they had placed in Him would be forsaken

- c. Paul is pleading with them to not cast away that first confidence that they had in Christ—but fully believe in Christ
- d. Genuine faith in Christ has great reward
- e. And one day Jesus will come again and reward all those who genuinely gave their heart to Christ

2. They were lacking a willingness to be patient (so could come completely to Christ)

- a. The cost of truly obeying the will of God—seemed to be too high for them
- b. They needed patience

- i. They needed a willingness to give all and follow Christ completely

**NOTE:** We don't really understand how high the cost is to be a believer in Christ. It was so high, that some of these Hebrews were considering falling away—losing their eternal soul—than to go on in patient faith to follow Christ.

It is free to be saved—but the cost is extremely high. Are you willing to give all to follow Christ?

**C. Looking to the Scripture**—“*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall*

*have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul”*

1. Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4

- a. He emphasizes that the way a person becomes just (righteous) is by faith
- b. And the way the just continues to live his life—is by faith
- c. These “*on the wall*” Hebrews needed to move forward by faith—and begin to live by faith

- i. The cost would be great
  - ii. But the reward would be greater
  - iii. There was nothing left for them to do, but to believe

2. No pleasure comes from God—who shrinks back in unbelief

- a. It's not enough to have been closely associated to Christ—and yet never give Him our heart
- b. Jesus said that on the Day of Judgment

*“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?  
(These people had been closely associated with Christ)*

23 *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”

**Luke 13:24-29**—“*Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. 25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: 26 then shall ye begin to say, **We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.** 27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. 28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. 29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.*”

**3.** Genuine Christianity is that which believes completely

- a. To the saving of the soul
- b. Shallow faith will not save the soul
- c. Only a faith that is ready to follow Christ completely—is saving faith

**James 2:20**—“*faith without works is dead*”

**CONCLUSION:**

**I. Apostasy is the Willful Abandonment of Understood Truth**

**II. Apostasy Will Bring God’s Severest Wrath**

**III. Apostasy Can Be Avoided**