



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 12.21.2025

## Look Back to Move Forward

Lesson Thirty-Eight • Hebrews 10:32-39

### Overview of the Fourth Gospel Warning in Hebrews 10:19-39

10:19-25 EXHORTING to ALL with Much Encouragement!	10:26-31 WARNING to ALL with Merciful Explanation!	10:32-39 ASSURING to ALL with More Exhortation!
<p><b>THEREFORE</b>, brothers and sisters,</p> <p><b>SINCE WE CONFESS WHAT WE ALREADY POSSESS:</b> <i>the better blood sacrifice of Jesus and His greater High Priesthood over the house of God –</i></p> <p><b>LET US DRAW NEAR without FEAR by FAITH!</b></p> <p><b>LET US HOLD FAST to the LAST with HOPE!</b></p> <p><b>LET US STIR UP to KEEP UP in LOVE...</b> <i>not forsaking our own assembling together as a local church but encouraging one another all the more as the Day draws nearer!</i></p>	<p><b>FOR</b> if we persist in deliberately sinning by refusing to do this after our conversion, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins but only the frightening certainty of eternal judgment – the consuming fire reserved for God's enemies!</p> <p><b>PERSISTING in WILLFUL SIN is a FALLING AWAY that RECEIVES the FEARFUL JUDGMENT of GOD'S FIERY WRATH.</b></p> <p><i>Such punishment will be so much worse than a physical death on the basis of two or three human witnesses for Old Testament apostates, who willfully refused to obey the external Law of Moses – a faithful human Mediator but still a sinner.</i></p> <p><i>How much more severe do you think the punishment will be for anyone who deliberately persists in trampling on the Son of God with contempt, treating the blood of the Father's New Covenant as common, and taunting the Spirit – the Gift of grace and Giver of grace for applying the covenant?</i></p> <p><b>THIS FEARFUL JUDGMENT WILL BE EVEN GREATER and MORE SEVERE UNDER the NEW COVENANT.</b></p> <p><i>For we have known and still know Him who said: "I will repay 'My people' who live like My enemies!" It is frightening to fall away and then fall into the hands of the living God for eternal judgment!"</i></p> <p><b>IT'S a FEARFUL FACT WE ALL MUST FACE: FALLING AWAY is to FALL INTO the HANDS of the LIVING GOD for ETERNAL, FIERY JUDGMENT!</b></p>	<p><b>RATHER..</b></p> <p><b>LOOK BACK to the PAST for REMEMBRANCE!</b></p> <p><i>In the past, after your conversion, you persevered despite great suffering with a fervent love, a fixed hope, and a fearless faith!</i></p> <p><b>HOLD FAST in the PRESENT with CONFIDENCE!</b></p> <p><i>Don't throw away your confidence which has a great reward! God is speaking to you</i></p> <p><i>"The Coming One is coming – soon, sudden, and sure! You are My righteous one and must persevere by faith in doing My will to receive the salvation I have already promised and provided in Christ, so don't shrink back but keep moving forward with an obedient faith, for I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back!"</i></p> <p><b>MOVE FORWARD into the FUTURE with ASSURANCE!</b></p> <p><i>We are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but among those who have faith to the preservation of soul-saving!</i></p>

- **What's the purpose of 10:32-39?** After his severe warning, the pastor-teacher provides **ASSURANCE** of God's sovereign preservation of His "righteous ones," so they keep persevering together by faith, with hope, and in love!

### What's the Big Idea?

#### All Three **TENSES** of Salvation Are Essential for Persevering to Our Final Salvation!

*Look back to the past to keep moving forward in the present toward God's promised salvation in the future!*

### Look Back to Move Forward!

#### 1. Look Back to the Past for **REMEMBRANCE**. (vv. 32-34)

- Start remembering how after your conversion you **PERSEVERED** through great sufferings. (v. 32)

#### Two Truths About the Timing of the Past

- Remember **AFTER** you were truly converted.

*"the former days...after being enlightened." (6:4; 10:26, 32)*

- Remember how you persevered through **GREAT SUFFERINGS** for Christ.

*"the former days, when....endured a great conflict of sufferings." (cf. 2:9-10; 12:1)*

## Two Truths About the Sufferings of the Past

1. You personally **SUFFERED** public shaming and plundering of your material possessions.  
*"partly by being a made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations."*
  2. You congregationally **SHARED** with others in their public shaming by showing sympathy to prisoners.  
*"partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners...." (cf. 4:15)*
- Start remembering how your faith, hope, and love **ENABLED** you to persevere through great sufferings.
1. A **FEARLESS** faith in Christ and His greater glory! (v. 38; 11:24-28)
  2. A **FIXED** hope on the entering God's holy presence and future rest! (v. 34)
  3. A **FERVENT** love for God and His people as shown by good works! (vv. 32-34a)

## 2. Hold Fast in the Present with **CONFIDENCE**. (vv. 35-38)

- Don't **THROW AWAY** your confident hope: *Keep holding fast to the last.* (vv. 35-36; cf. 3:6; 4:16; 10:19)

*"Perseverance is the present tense of the Christian life, and it typically involves fierce struggle."* – Richard Phillips

- Don't **SHRINK BACK** like the faithless: *Keep drawing near by faith until Christ comes again.* (vv. 37-38)

### The Pastor-Teacher's Logic Leads to Another Warning

1. Christ is the coming One who's coming will be *soon, sure, and sudden!* (v. 37; Isaiah 26:20)
2. Therefore, My righteous one (true believers) will be ready and doing My will: *Drawing near by faith, holding fast with hope, and stirring up one another in love!* (vv. 38a, 22-25; Habakkuk 2:3)
3. But if he or she shrinks back from doing my will with an obedient faith in My Son, persisting in willfully sinning instead of living righteously, then My soul will have no pleasure in them – only eternal fiery judgment! (v. 38b; Habakkuk 2:4)

*With every Christian who puts his trust in the living Christ, and enters the Holiest of All to live there, doing the will of God must be the link that unites the end to the beginning. Between the faith that accepts the promise and the experience that fully inherits it, there may be [for us as well] years of waiting and trial."* – Andrew Murray

*"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."*  
Hebrews 10:36

## 3. Move Forward into the Future with **ASSURANCE**. (v. 39)

*"But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."*  
Hebrews 10:39

### How Can I Be Among Those Who Don't Shrink Back but Have Persevering Faith?

Trust In *WHAT* Christ has *DONE* for you and *WHO* Christ has *BECOME* for you! (10:19-21)

## Look Back to Keep Moving Forward Toward Our Final Salvation and Future Reward!

*Allow all three tenses of salvation to work in the present to keep moving forward to our final salvation and future reward!*