

May 2, 2021

GOD Either SAVES OR JUDGES
Hebrews 10:19-39

The author of the letter to the Hebrews is now recycling the elements & truths that make Christ's Covenant so much better than the first: *His priesthood, sacrifice, cleansing, mediation and...this morning, His salvation!* The reason for the redundancy is simple: good teachers use repetition to cement facts in their students' minds! (*Repeat it!*)

The audience of Jews were experts in the Law of Moses. This made the truth about Jesus especially difficult to accept! Therefore, reiterating the distinctions about Christ's better covenant as a replacement for their lesser covenant of Law was essential! **Heb 10:9,10:** Jesus **"cancelled the first covenant (killed the need for any further efforts of atonement) in order to put the second into effect. For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time."** Making believers holy spotlights what I believe is the greatest distinction between New & Old Covenants: **Being made holy is the basis for permanent salvation in Christ!** Under the New, Better Covenant, **God either Saves OR Judges people...not both!** Christ frees believers from judgment **once and for all time!**

(John 3:17-18)

But in the Old Testament, **God both saved & judged His people continually!** Think about Israel's experiences: *Exodus & Exile; Passover & poisonous snakes; Water rock & Wilderness wanderings; Achan & Ai – just to name a few!* The reason for saving-judging is that conversion was not available until Christ's New Covenant! Only Christ could change the wickedness of mankind! God promised & prophesied His **trump card** over Sin's power, penalty, & persuasion – **Jesus Christ** – who would make a new heart, spiritual center, holy nature, sainthood a reality for all who believe. But until Christ ended Sin's control that impelled man's wickedness, God saved & judged His people, Israel.

ILLUS. Phase 10 card game with grandkids! Trump changes!
But Jesus never changes! He always trumps Sin in us!

We must be careful not to read any NT scripture with an OT mind-set...like Hebrews 10:26-31! **God no longer judges His people b/c Christ's salvation is permanent: once for all – just like His sacrifice!**

I) God Judges His Enemies: Heb 10:26-30 (NLT) with commentary

- "Deliberately continue sinning..."** unconverted nature & will
- John refers to these as *"among us but not of us so they left us"*
- Lives characterized by willful Sin remain God's enemies

-**"After receiving knowledge of the truth..."**

-Church affiliates, hear truth, *but not believers/converts*

-**"God's judgment...will consume his enemies"**

-"Enemies" = unsubmitted, opposing God's rule/ways!

The author ends with a quote from Moses Deut 32 about God judging His people...and He did! **But is the author saying that NT believers are God's enemies? Are Christians to be judged & condemned? NO!**

Judgment & condemnation of God's people CANNOT occur under the New Covenant because of the efficacy & sufficiency of Christ's one-time sacrifice! Only one sin condemns any human being: **"blasphemy against the Holy Spirit of God"** – and only those who reject Christ & the Spirit who makes Him real to/in us commit this sin! The author calls this **"trampling on the Son of God with disdain!"**

So what do true believers who've experienced salvation thru faith in Christ & undergo sanctification really look, sound, & act like?

II) God Saves His People: Heb 10:19-25 (NLT) with commentary

The author sets Christ's NT spirit realities into the imagery of the OT tabernacle (*a mere copy of heaven's perfect tabernacle*). He does this for the benefit & familiarity of his Jewish audience: *Most Holy Place, curtain, High Priest, cleansing by sprinkled blood, & washed with water!* Then he presents 4 **"Let us..."** statements confirming how welcome we are in God's presence permanently, *beyond our imagination!*

1) **"Let us go right into the presence of God" (22)**

"we should draw near" = Present = continuous, repeated action;
Subjunctive = action @ which uncertainty
Middle = subject acting partly on self

We should be confident @ drawing near b/c we do so in/of Jesus!

How should we be constantly confident in drawing near to God?

- 1) Sincere hearts fully trusting Christ (*full of faith, faith-filled*)
 - 2) No Guilty consciences! Cleaned by Christ's blood *sprinkled*
 - 3) Bodies washed clean with pure water
 - OT ceremonial washings of priests prior donning garb
 - NT baptism of the Holy Spirit reflected in water
- Eph 5:26- "Christ gave His life to make the church holy & clean, washed by water with God's word" NLT)**

2) **"Let us hold tightly to the hope we affirm" (23)** He keeps promises

- "Actively bound to hope"** (expectation) b/c God remembers
- Heather's strong suite:** *"Show me how You were w/ me!"*
- No reason for wavering or uncertainty: **God cannot fail!**

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SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Hebrews 10:19-39

Are you being saved OR judged by God right now? Why/why not?

Merely affiliating with a church does not equate to salvation. Why?

Faith in Christ secures permanent salvation on the basis of holiness

Which “Let us...” statement are you best at? Which need attention?

****So...prove that you are truly new creatures in Christ who share His Holy nature and Live out your faith as His church by:**

3) **“Let us motivate one another to acts of love and good works”** (24)

-“Continuously inciting/agitating each other” (P, S, active)

-Do beneficent acts motivated by love for others & their needs

-**Eph 2:10 – “We are God’s workmanship, created...”**

4) **“Let us not neglect our meeting together”** (25)

-Neglect = “leave behind or desert” = Present/Participle/active

-Don’t neglect gathering = powerful effect on/for each of us!

-But this powerful effect is nullified by your absence!

Only in the New Covenant, and only by Christ’s omnipotent, eternal blood, could Sin be removed from us thru regeneration/conversion! Now, we who believe in Christ are born again as new creatures with godly natures, no longer “of” Sin, but now “of” God’s Holy Spirit! *Every believer is a Re-creation, sharing God’s holiness, “For by Christ’s one offering He forever made perfect (in spirit-nature) those who are being made holy (in soul: mind, will, emotions)!”*

We must understand the comprehensiveness of Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice: **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus (NT) has set you free from the law of sin and death (OT).”**

(Repeat!) Let’s keep helping each other grow in confidence to boldly enter worship, to firmly grasp the expectation of God’s goodness, and to prove our new life in Him by **“stimulating one another to love and good deeds, not deserting our assembling together but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see His return drawing near!”**

PRAY