

**“The Lord Will Judge His People”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Let’s not ‘let go & let God’, let’s trust God and get going**

(J.I. Packer)

*\*Because...*

1. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (vv.26-31)
  
2. It is a glorious thing to persevere in faith and preserve your soul (vv.32-39)

**Next Week: Hebrews 11:1-7 - “By Faith”:**

**MEFC Community Group Study Guide**

For the Week of September 15th - 21st

**Getting Started**

1. Inside of the last decade, a number of doctrinally sound, high profile leaders within the American evangelical church have disqualified themselves from the ministry. Though we won't rehearse their names here, many of them were at one time greatly esteemed preachers and trusted pastors among God's people. While some have expressed varying degrees of repentance, others have not - with a few even fully restored to public positions of church leadership. If you've followed any of their stories, what sort of effect has the trajectory of their lives had on you or your faith? What types of lessons are there for us as we seek to "remember" and "consider the outcome of their way of life" (Hebrews 13:7)?

**Digging Deeper**

2. More tragic still, are some recent examples of church leaders who have evidently apostatized from the Christian faith. John MacArthur helpfully defines apostates as: "Professing Christians who identify themselves with Christ and then subsequently renounce him". Using the three warning passages we've studied thus far from the Letter to the Hebrews (2:1-4; 3:1-4:13 and 5:11-6:12), let's seek to get our bearings a bit. How do these verses help us to interpret these devastating situations? What truths are clear to you from these passages as you reflect upon their lives as well as your own?

## Open Your Bible to Hebrews 10:26-39...

3. Verse 26 begins with a “For...”. So, what’s the “For...” for? That is, what does the truth contained in verse 26 have to do with the truths in 10:19-25 - especially vv.24-25? In context, to what sort of sin does verse 26 appear to be referring?
  
4. In the same verse, the author warns believers against “sinning deliberately”, for if we do “there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”. How are we to understand this admonition? Isn’t there a sense in which *all* sin is deliberate? Don’t we do what we do because we want what we want? Does God, then, expect sinless perfection of us if we are to persevere in the faith? Explain.
  
5. It’s typical in our broader culture (and sadly, even in the church today) to hear that ‘the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath, but the God of the New Testament is a God of love’. Read carefully through verses 28 and 29. How does what we find there challenge the common assumptions that people tend to have about the nature of the wrath and love of God from the Old Testament to the New? Verse 29 appears to operate on the same premise as Hebrews 2:2-3a. How do these two passages illuminate one another? How do these truths make you feel?

6. The personhood of the Holy Spirit is a doctrine that is not as well-known as it might be today. What we mean by *personhood* is that (like God the Father and God the Son) God the Holy Spirit possesses an intellect, a will, and even genuine emotions. Along these lines, he experiences joy (1 Thessalonians 1:6), grief (Ephesians 4:30) and also love (Romans 15:30). Have you given much reflection to these things? If so, what're your thoughts? If not, what are you learning as you consider these passages? Furthermore, Hebrews 10:29 tells us that the Spirit can be "outraged". One barometer for measuring our spiritual maturity is that we are coming to love what God loves and hate what he hates. In context, what is it that outrages the Holy Spirit? Does it outrage you? Explain.
  
7. In vv.32-39, the writer to the Hebrews encourages his listeners to think back to the early days following their initial conversion to Christ. Why? What's he attempting to achieve by asking them to "recall the former days"? What did their lives look like during that period of time (vv.32-34)? How many wonderfully counter-cultural markers can you identify in their walk with the Lord in these verses? Though our persecution level isn't nearly the same (and there are convicting reasons for that - see 2 Timothy 3:12), does your experience or attitude look anything like theirs? Explain.
  
8. Of what are the Hebrews in danger according to v.35? At the same time, what sort of stimulation and incentive does he offer them in vv.36-39? At the end of the day, what is the means to the preservation of their souls (*hint*: it's one single five-letter word in v.39)? This same word is used no less than 26 times in the next chapter. Is it possible that we tend to vastly underestimate this gift in our lives as believers? How so?