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For Hebrews 10

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HEBREWS CHAPTER 10

In Your Group Read Hebrews chapter ten (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 10 King James Version

HEB 10: [1] For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. **[2]** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **[3]** But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **[4]** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. **[5]** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: **[6]** In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. **[7]** ¶ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will I, O God. (Psal m 40:6-8) **[8]** Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; **[9]** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will I, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. **[10]** By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. **[11]** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: **[12]** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; **[13]** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **[14]** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that

are sanctified. **[15]** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, **[16]** This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (Jeremiah 31:33) **[17]** And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (Jeremiah 31:34) **[18]** Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. **[19]** ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, **[20]** By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; **[21]** And having an high priest over the house of God; **[22]** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. **[23]** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) **[24]** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **[25]** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **[26]** 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. (Deuteronomy 32:35) And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (Deuteronomy 32:36; Psalm 135:14) **[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. (Habakkuk 2:3,4) **[39]** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 1-10**

Hebrews 10:[1] For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. [2] For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. [3] But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. [4] For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. [5] Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: [6] In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. [7] ¶ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (Psalm 40:6-8) [8] Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; [9] Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. [10] By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (King James Version)

The old plan was only a hint of the good things in the new plan. Since that old “law plan” wasn’t complete in itself, it couldn’t complete those who followed it. No matter how many sacrifices were offered year after year, they never added up to a complete solution. If they had, the worshipers would have gone merrily on their way, no longer dragged down by their sins. But instead of removing awareness of sin, when those animal sacrifices were repeated over and over they actually heightened awareness and guilt. The plain fact is that bull and goat blood can’t get rid of sin. That is what is meant by this prophecy, put in the mouth of Christ: “You don’t want sacrifices and offerings year after year; you’ve prepared a body for me for a sacrifice. It’s not fragrance and smoke from the altar that whet your appetite. So I said, ‘I’m here to do it your way, oh God, the way it’s described in your Book.’” When he said, “You don’t want sacrifices and offerings,” he was referring to practices according to the old plan. When he added, “I’m here to do it your way,” he set aside the first in order to enact the new plan – God’s way – by which we are made fit for God by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus. (verses 1-10) **(The Message)**

Additional Information: It appears to me that what is perfect is the sacrifice and the Lamb, not the worshipper. The worshipper is made righteous (perfect) through the sacrifice and the Lamb. But if the worshipper turns away from the Sacrifice and the Lamb, how can they stand righteous before God? This appears to be the warning of Hebrews as this chapter continues to show.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 11-14

Hebrews 10: [11] And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: [12] But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; [13] From henceforth expecting til I his enemies be made his footstool . [14] For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (King James Version)

[11] Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. [13] Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, [14] because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. **(New International Version)**

¹¹And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. **(New King James Version)**

¹¹Under the old agreement the priests stood before the altar day after day offering sacrifices that could never take away our sins. ¹²But Christ gave himself to God for our sins as one sacrifice for all time and then sat down in the place of highest honor at God's right hand, ¹³waiting for his enemies to be laid under his feet. ¹⁴For by that one offering he made forever perfect in the sight of God all those whom he is making holy. **(The Living Bible)**

[11] Every day the priests stand and do their religious service. Again and again the priests offer the same sacrifices. But those sacrifices can never take away sins. [12] But Christ offered only one sacrifice for sins, and that sacrifice is enough for all time. Then Christ sat down at the right side of God. [13] And now Christ waits there for his enemies to be made a footstool for his feet. [14] With one sacrifice Christ made his people perfect forever. Those people are the ones who are being made holy. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verse 14 – “Them that are sanctified” is in the present tense in Greek. Commands that are given in the present tense are expected to have continuous or repeated application. We could supply the following words or phrases to the Bible reader and enhance his understanding of passages that are in the present tense. These words are: repeatedly, that is, over and over again, constantly, continuously, customarily, as a habit or lifestyle, uninterruptedly. Hebrews 10:14 states, “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (present tense, those who continue to be set apart). That’s why the NIV, NKJV, etc. translates this as “perfected forever those who are being made holy, perfected forever those who are being sanctified, etc., these are the ones He has perfected forever through His sacrifice.

The Christian is perfected forever by Jesus’ redeeming work if he continues in the faith (Heb. 3:12), moves not away from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:23), holds fast his confidence and rejoicing of hope firm unto the end (Heb. 3:6), and draws not back but continues to believe to the saving of his soul (Heb. 10:39). The faith that is called for in Scripture continues steadfast until the end (Heb. 9:28).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 15-18

Hebrews 10: [15] Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, [16] This is the covenant that I will I make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will I put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I I write them; (Jeremiah 31:33) [17] And their sins and iniquities will I I remember no more. (Jeremiah 31:34) [18] Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (King James Version)

[15] The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: [16] "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." [17] Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." [18] And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. **(New International Version)**

The Holy Spirit himself endorses this truth for us, when he says, first: This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, saith the Lord: I will put my laws on their heart, And upon their mind also will I write them. And then, he adds: And their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Where God grants remission of sin there can be no question of making further atonement. (verses 15-18) **(Phillips Translation)**

[15] And the Holy Spirit also gives us his witness. First he says, [16] "This is the covenant that I will make with them in the days to come, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and write them on their minds." [17] And then he says, "I will not remember their sins and wicked deeds any longer." [18] So when these have been forgiven, an offering to take away sins is no longer needed. **(Today's English Version)**

[15] The Holy Spirit tells us this: First He says, [16] "This is the New Way of Worship that I will give them. When that day comes, says the Lord, I will put My Laws into their hearts. And I will write them in their minds." Then He says, [17] "I will not remember their sins and wrongdoings anymore." (Jeremiah 31:33-34) [18] No more gifts on the altar in worship are needed when our sins are forgiven. **(The New Life Testament)**

Additional Information: Verses 15-18 The two quotations included in these verses are from Jer 31:31-34 (already cited in 8:8-12). The new covenant guarantees that sins will be effectively and completely forgiven (v. 17), with the result that no additional sacrifice for sins is needed (v. 18). (NIV Study Bible, p. 1870).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 19-20

Hebrews 10: [19] ¶ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; (King James Version)

¹⁹And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us. **(New Living Translation)**

So, friends, we can now – without hesitation – walk right up to God, into “the Holy Place.” Jesus has cleared the way by the blood of his sacrifice, acting as our priest before God. The “curtain” into God's presence is his body. (verses 19-20) **(The Message)**

¹⁹And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies, where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰This is the fresh, new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—his human body—to let us into the holy presence of God. **(The Living Bible)**

[19] We have, then, brothers, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus. **[20]** He opened for us a new way, a living way, through the curtain – that is, through his own body. **(Today's English Version)**

[19] Fellow Christians, with the blood of Jesus we can now go boldly into the MOST HOLY PLACE **[20]** by the new, living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His body, **(God's Word to the Nations)**

[19] And so my brothers and sisters, we have the confidence to go right into the Most Holy Place with no fear in our hearts because of Jesus' blood. **[20]** For Jesus opened up for us a new and living way to get through that curtain. And that way is His human body. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

Additional Information: “When Jesus' flesh was torn at His Crucifixion, so was the temple veil that symbolically separated people from God's presence (Matt. 27:51). When the high priest on the Day of Atonement entered the Holy of Holies, the people waited outside for him to return. When Christ entered the heavenly temple, He did not return. Instead, He opened the curtain and exposed the Holy of Holies so that we could follow Him there.” (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1864).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 21-23

Hebrews 10: [21] And having an high priest over the house of God; [22] Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (King James Version)

²¹And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, ²²let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. **(New Living Translation)**

Further, since we have a great High Priest set over the household of God, let us draw near with true hearts and fullest confidence, knowing that our inmost souls have been purified by the sprinkling of his blood just as our bodies are cleansed by the washing of clean water. In this confidence let us hold on to the hope that we profess without the slightest hesitation – for He is utterly dependable. (verses 21-23) **(Phillips Translation)**

[21] and we have a great Priest in charge of God's house. **[22]** Let us then go in, with a heart filled with the genuine conviction of faith, because our hearts were sprinkled to take away our guilty feelings, and our bodies were washed with clean water. **[23]** Let us cling to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who made the promise is faithful. **(God's Word to the Nations)**

Additional Information: Verse 22 - "Let us draw near." "The full restoration of Israel to God's blessing is dependent upon them drawing near to Him (Jer. 30:18-22)." (MacArthur Bible Commentary). **"Draw near,** bears the idea of coming to God frequently, openly, intimately, and unhesitatingly." (Wycliffe Bible Commentary). **"Having our bodies washed with pure water."** "The writer's words are probably an exhortation to lay hold consciously of the cleansing benefits of Christ's Cross and to draw near to God in enjoying them" (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).

Verse 23 – **"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering"** is an exhortation for endurance. First come (draw near), now stay (Hold fast the profession of our faith). The reason, God is faithful in regard to His promise (Liberty Bible Commentary).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 24-25

Hebrews 10: [24] And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: [25] Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (King James Version)

²⁴Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.

²⁵And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

(New Living Translation)

²⁴In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good. ²⁵Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near. **(The Living Bible)**

And let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds. And let us not hold aloof from our church meetings, as some do. Let us do all we can to help one another's faith, and this the more earnestly as we see the final day drawing nearer. (verses 24-25) **(Phillips Translation)**

[24] And let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities, **[25]** Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching. **(The Amplified New Testament).**

[24] And let us give careful attention as to how we can stir up each other to love and to do good. **[25]** We must not neglect our meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but we must encourage each other, especially now as you see The Day drawing near. **(The New Translation)**

[24] We should think about each other and see how we can help each other to show love and do good things. **[25]** We should not quit meeting together. That's what some people are doing. But we should meet together and strengthen each other. You should do this more and more as you see the Day coming. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verse 24 – The word “**provoke**” means to urge or incite by strong argument. To “**incite**” is to provoke to action, to stir up.

Verse 25 - “**Exhorting one another.**” “**Exhortation**” is a message of warning or encouragement, designed to motivate persons to action (Nelson's Bible Dict.). It was also the constant practice of prophets (Isa. 1:17; Jer. 4:14; Ezek. 37), apostles (Acts 11:23), and of Christ himself (Luke 3:18) (Unger's Bible Dict.). Mutual exhortation is the responsibility of all Christians (Rom. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:11, 14; Heb. 3:13, 10:24-25). The Scriptures themselves are a source of exhortation (Rom. 15:14; Heb. 12:5-6). Two New Testament letters describe themselves as exhortations (1 Pet. 5:12; Heb. 13:22) (Holman Bible Dict.).

It appears to me that it is a Christian responsibility to encourage, comfort and warn, that we may help one another abide in the faith (See 1 Timothy 4:1) as we see the Day of the Lord drawing near.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 26-31

Hebrews 10: [26] 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 bel ongeth unto me, I will I recompense, saith the Lord. (Deuteronomy 32:35) And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (Deuteronomy 32:36, Psalm 135:14) [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (King James Version)

[26] If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, **[27]** but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. **[28]** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **[29]** How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? **[30]** For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." **[31]** It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **(New International Version)**

²⁶ Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins. ²⁷ There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. ²⁸ Anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God and have treated the blood of the covenant as if it were common and unholy. Such people have insulted and enraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people. ³⁰ For we know the one who said, "I will take vengeance. I will repay those who deserve it." He also said, "The Lord will judge his own people." ³¹ It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **(New Living Translation)**

²⁶ If we decide to go on sinning after we have learned the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins. ²⁷ There is nothing but fear in waiting for the judgment and the terrible fire that will destroy all those who live against God. ²⁸ Anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was found guilty from the proof given by two or three witnesses. He was put to death without mercy. ²⁹ So what do you think should be done to those who do not respect the Son of God, who look at the blood of the agreement that made them holy as no different from others' blood, who insult the Spirit of God's grace? Surely they should have a much worse punishment. ³⁰ We know that God said, "I will punish those who do wrong; I will repay them." And he also said, "The Lord will judge his

people.”³¹ It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **(New Century Version)**

If we give up and turn our backs on all we've learned, all we've been given, all the truth we now know, we repudiate Christ's sacrifice and are left on our own to face the Judgment – and a mighty fierce judgment it will be! If the penalty for breaking the law of Moses is physical death, what do you think will happen if you turn on God's Son, spit on the sacrifice that made you whole, and insult this most gracious Spirit? This is no light matter. God has warned us that he'll hold us to account and make us pay. He was quite explicit: “Vengeance is mine, and I won't overlook a thing,” and, “God will judge his people.” Nobody's getting by with anything, believe me. (verses 26-31) **(The Message)**

²⁶If anyone sins deliberately by rejecting the Savior after knowing the truth of forgiveness, this sin is not covered by Christ's death; there is no way to get rid of it.

²⁷There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible punishment of God's awful anger, which will consume all his enemies. ²⁸A man who refused to obey the laws given by Moses was killed without mercy if there were two or three witnesses to his sin.

²⁹Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled underfoot the Son of God and treated his cleansing blood as though it were common and unhallowed, and insulted and outraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people. ³⁰For we know him who said, “Justice belongs to me; I will repay them”; who also said, “The Lord himself will handle these cases.” ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **(The Living Bible)**

[26] If we keep on sinning because we want to after we have received and know the truth, there is no gift that will take away sins then. **[27]** Instead, we will stand in front of God and on that day He will say we are guilty. And the hot fires of hell will burn up those who work against God. **[28]** Anyone who did not obey the Old Way of Worship died without loving-kindness when two or three men spoke against him. **[29]** How much more will a man have to be punished if he walks on and hates the Son of God? How much more will he be punished if he acts as if the blood of God's New Way of Worship is worth nothing? This New Way of Worship is God's way of making him holy. How much more will he be punished if he laughs at the Holy Spirit Who wanted to show him loving-favor? **[30]** For we know God said, “I will pay back what is coming to them.” And, “The Lord will say who is guilty among His people.” (Deuteronomy 32:35-36) **[31]** The very worst thing that can happen to a man is to fall into the hands of the living God! **(The New Life Testament)**

[26] If we decide to continue sinning after we have learned the truth, then there is no other sacrifice that will take away sins. **[27]** If we continue sinning, all we have is fear in waiting for the judgment and the angry fire that will destroy all people who live against God. **[28]** Any person who refused to obey the law of Moses was found guilty from the proof given by two or three witnesses. That person was not forgiven. He was killed. **[29]** So what do you think should be done to a person who shows his hate for the Son of God? Surely that person should have a much worse punishment. Yes, that person should have a worse punishment for not showing respect for the blood (Jesus' death) of the new agreement. That blood once made that person holy. And that person should have a worse punishment for showing his hate against the Spirit of God's grace (kindness). **[30]** We know that God said, “I will punish people for

the wrong things they do; I will repay them.” And God also said, “The Lord will judge his people.” [31] It is a terrible thing for a sinful person to fall into the hands of the living God. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

Additional Information: Verses 26-27 “One of the most solemn warnings against apostasy found in the Scriptures. If one willfully forsakes Christ, there is no other sacrifice for sin” (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p.1884).

Verse 26 – “Sin willfully” reveals that this sin is deliberate and intentional. This is not a sin of ignorance or weakness; it is by choice (Liberty Bible Commentary). The word “**sin**” used here is in the present tense meaning willfully continuous and habitual. On the basis of the description of the sin of apostasy in verse 28, the word **willfully** in verse 26 could hark back to Numbers 15:22-31. Numbers 15:30-31 easily parallel the situation in Hebrews. Numbers 15:27-31 reads: “And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat....And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly....But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously....that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the LORD...that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.” When one willingly or defiantly (lit., with a high hand – Heb. *Beyad ramad*) disobeyed God, there was no sacrifice for such apostasy. He must die. This is the nature of the sin of Hebrews 10:26.

The phrase “**knowledge of the truth**” is *epignosis* and means clear and exact knowledge. *Epignosis* is a more intensified knowledge, bringing a more thorough participation in the object of knowledge on the part of the subject (Lexical Aids, Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.).

The phrase “**no more sacrifice for sins**” means “no longer, no more, no further” (Thayer’s Lexicon)

“**For if WE sin willfully.**” All must beware. By (the writer of Hebrews) placing himself under the warning, as he has done in all of the preceding warnings, he demonstrates that (the warnings) are for the saved, not the unsaved. The severe admonition of this warning, and all others in Scripture, is God’s means to ensure our perseverance. (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol.2, p.702).

Verse 27 – The word “**adversaries**” means “opposite to, opposed to, contrary to, an adversary” (of God) (Thayer’s Lexicon). The willful rejection of the knowledge of the truth apparently places the rejectors among the adversaries of God.

Verse 28 - The use of **despised** (Gk. *atheteo* meaning “disregard, set aside, reject, refuse”) for the one who rejects the law of Moses is “plainly not every violator of that Law; since for many of its violations there were expiatory sacrifices” (Brown, p.471). The author seems to be alluding to a particular rejection of the Law, which is recorded in Deuteronomy 17:2-7. These verses record that upon the evidence of two or three witnesses, death by stoning was the punishment for rejection (Deut. 17:5-6). The sin of rejection in this passage is apostasy – going after and serving false gods (Deut. 17:2) (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol.2, p.701).

Verse 29 - “Sorer punishment” means “**worse punishment.**” What could be worse punishment than the physical death mentioned in verse 28? Answer: Spiritual Death.

The phrase “**wherewith he was sanctified**” refers to true Christians.

“**An unholy thing**” means a “common thing.”

To “**despite unto the Spirit of grace**” means “to treat insultingly” the Spirit who has offered grace. (Vine’s Lexicon). When mercy is rejected, judgment must fall (Wycliffe Bible Commentary).

Verse 30 - The words **recompense** and **judge** are in the Future Tense. The Future Tense corresponds to the English future, and indicates the contemplated or certain occurrence of an event which has not yet occurred.

Verse 31 - Truly it is a terrible thing for a man who has done this to fall into the hands of the living God! **(Phillips Translation).**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 32-34

Hebrews 10: [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. (King James Version)

[32] Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. **[33]** Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. **[34]** You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. **(New International Version)**

³² Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. ³⁴ You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity. **(New Living Translation)**

Additional Information: (Verse 32) In contrast to these believer's consider those in Luke 8:13, "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away." **(Verse 34)** In contrast to these believer's consider those in Luke 8:14, "And the seed that fell in the weeds – well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money and having fun" (The Message).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 10
VERSES 35-39

Hebrews 10: [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. (Habakkuk 2:3-4) [39] But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (King James Version)

³⁵ Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. ³⁷ "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. ³⁸ And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away." ³⁹ But

we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation. **(New Living Translation)**

[35] So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. **[36]** You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. **[37]** For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. **[38]** But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." **[39]** But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. **(New International Version)**

Additional Information: Verse 39 – The Greek word for “perdition” is *apoleia*, meaning “destroying, utter destruction” (Thayer’s Lexicon).

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Hebrews Chapter 10)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Hebrews Chapter 10.**

1. **Read Hebrews 10:3-4.** Instead of removing awareness of sin, the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant (repeated over & over) actually heightened awareness and guilt. True or False.
2. **Read Hebrews 10:10.** God's way to make us right and acceptable before Him, was the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus. True or False.
3. **Read Hebrews 10:14.** By the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus, God has forever made perfect in His sight those who are being made holy (sanctified). True or False.
4. **Read Hebrews 10:17-18.** The New Covenant guarantees that sins will be effectively and completely forgiven, with the result that no additional sacrifice for sins is needed. True or False.
5. **Read Hebrews 10:19.** We can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. True or False.
6. **Read Hebrews 10:23.** "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith" is an exhortation for perseverance and endurance. True or False.
7. **Read Hebrews 10:25.** As Christians we are to encourage, comfort and warn each other as we see the Day of His coming back draw near. True or False.
8. **Read Hebrews 10:26-27.** If we turn back to a life of sin, after having received the knowledge of the truth, there is nothing to look forward to but God's Judgment. True or False.
9. **Read Hebrews 10:26.** The book of Hebrews warnings are written to Christians. True or False.
10. **Read Hebrews 10:28-29.** What could be worse punishment than the physical death mentioned in verse 28? Spiritual death or the second death (Rev. 20:14).
11. **Read Hebrews 10:32-34.** These Hebrew Christians were willing to suffer a lot because they knew that in heaven they had better and lasting possessions. True or False.

12. **Read Hebrews 10:35.** Do not throw away your confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. True or False.

13. **Read Hebrews 10:39.** Will you draw back or believe to the saving of your soul?

Instructions for Group Leader: You may want to summarize the chapter (for the group) by reading aloud the following.

Putting the Chapter in Context: Hebrews Chapter 10.

The one sacrifice of Christ is superior to the many sacrifices of the Old Covenant (verses 1-18). A warning to remain faithful, endure and receive what God has promised (verses 19-39).

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**Discipleship Evangelism
P.O. Box 17007
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935-7007 U.S.A.**

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