

Hebrews 10:19-29

## The Danger of Insulting God

vs.19- "brethren"- the writer acknowledges the readers as fellow believers

(They were believers but were uncertain of completely abandoning the Law)

- "boldness"- (parrhesia) a free and fearless confidence, courageous and cheerful

(The idea is having nothing concealed)

- "holiest"- meaning into the presence of God

vs.20- "new"- (prosphatos) recently slaughtered or freshly killed

(An obvious reference to Christ being sacrificed on the Cross)

- "living"- before, entering into the presence of God (holiest) would result in death

Truth- when man sinned in the Garden, God expelled them and blocked the entrance- Gen.3:24

(In the Tabernacle and Temple, mankind was still forbidden to be in the presence of God)

\*man lost access because of sin and now the writer tells them "you can come in"

(The price of admission is in vs.19- "by the blood")

- "consecrate"- meaning to renew or initiate

- "His flesh"- meaning by way of His death and sacrifice

vs.21- knowing the fact of this verse, leads us into the invitation of the next verse

vs.22- Notice the 3 "Let us" phrases in 22-24

\*where the old covenant said "stay back", the new covenant says "draw near"

- "true heart"- (alethinou) perfect, strong, or sincere

(This word is in relation to "aletheia" (truth) which is a Messianic term))

\*aletheia means the reality of something that lies at the basis of an appearance

- a "true heart" is one that has Christ as Lord

- "hearts sprinkled and bodies washed"- the writer speaks metaphorically here

(He is referencing Lev.16 were the priests had to prepare himself to enter- the blood had to be sprinkled on him and he had to stop by the laver of water to wash himself)

- it symbolized being clean inside and out

Truth- the laver of water in the Old Testament symbolized the Word of God (John 15:3)

\*His blood cleanses our hearts (inward) His Word cleanses our lives (outward)

vs.23- "hold fast"- to preserve or stay true to something

\*we stay true to Christ because He is true to us

vs.24- "consider"- to give attention to, to fix a mind toward something

- "love"- this speaks of an inward gratitude

- "good works"- this speaks of outward actions

vs.25- these "good works" toward each other is partly shown in encouraging one to

"not forsake"(abandon) the "assembling" (a gathering together)

\*the context of this entire passage is about coming into the presence of God (it was worship)

- the word "assembling" (episunagoge) is where the word "synagogue" comes from

Truth- the early church knew the importance of Christian fellowship

(The need for this fellowship is to keep one from growing cold in their Christian walk)

\*Prov.27:17- "iron sharpens iron"

- "day approaching"- this could mean that they had a feeling the Temple was in danger due to much rebellion and revolt that was happening around Jerusalem at that time

(Hebrews was probably written less than 2 years before the destruction of the Temple)

vs.26- "For"- this links to vs.25

(if one forsakes Christian fellowship, it could possibly lead to forsaking Christ)

- "willfully"- deliberately

- "received"- (lambano) to take up and carry something

- "knowledge"- this refers to a spiritual experience and not just some intellectual information

- "no more sacrifices"- meaning if they abandon Christianity, they abandon Christ, and the blood of animals are no longer a substitute

vs.27- the writer suggests that they have known the truth and if they willfully abandon it, they should expect judgment

\*a move into maturity would bring the benefits of the abundant life, but a refusal to do so would bring chastisement to them

(Since they have saving knowledge, this act would be deliberate)

(vs.28-29)- these verses gives a look into both old and new covenants

\*under Mosaic Law, when a person rejects God's Word, they died without mercy with the word of 2 or 3 witnesses (Deut.17:1-7)

29- in the Old Testament, death was the result of despising God's Word, the offerings, or falling into idolatry

\*the writer here reminds of how much worse it would be for them to despise the sacrificial death of the only begotten Son of God

- "trodden"- this was a Near East custom used as a gesture of contempt or scorn

(The person would lift a foot against or toward them- Psalm 41:9)

- "despite the Spirit of Grace"- doing all this regardless that the Holy Spirit has already testified to you of this truth (vs.15)