

A Better and Abiding Promise

Hebrews 10:26-39

Introduction

This morning's text is about the importance of hoping in a better and abiding promise in Christ Jesus. The world in which we live is constantly making us promises that it cannot keep and that do not last. This morning, we encounter a God who makes better promises that last forever...

Hebrews 10:26-39

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. ³⁷ For,

"Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him."

³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Exposition

I. The Threat of Judgment for Rejecting Christ (Vss. 26-31)

Verses 26-31 are some of the most difficult verses in all of scripture. There difficulty is found in threat of judgment for those who reject Christ, or, as verse 29 states it, "the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace." While there are several difference interpretations of these verses offered by many, I believe that point of these verses can be boiled down to this reality – no one who rejects Christ will escape the wrath and judgment of God. God put forth Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as a propitiation, that is, a wrath-bearing sacrifice, an atonement for sin, that all who would trust in Christ might be delivered from His holy judgment. What the author is dealing with in these verses is a person or people who think that they do not need Christ in order to escape God's judgment.

These people, according to our passage, despite what that have heard and received about Jesus, go one “sinning willfully and continuously.” They regard sin and God’s judgment lightly. They do not realize that it is “a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” These verses serve to threaten the person or people who would take sin and its consequences lightly. These verses serve to awaken us to the reality of judgment apart from faith in Christ. These verses teach us that we will not escape God’s righteous wrath if we reject the One who has satisfied God’s wrath for us, namely, Jesus. Do not believe that God will spare you if you do not trust in His Son. He did not spare His own Son so that He might give us grace so that we can go on sinning without any regard for holiness and faithfulness to Him.

T.S. – So how do we moving from “going on sinning” to being willing to suffer in this life for the sake of holiness? How do we reject the “fleeting pleasures of sin?” We are able to flee the fleeting pleasures of sin by trusting in the “better and abiding promises” that we possess in Christ Jesus...

II. The Better and Abiding Promise in Christ (Vss. 32-39)

Look at what we find in these verses: these believers, after they had received the gospel, instead of going on in sin, they were willing to suffer for the sake of being faithful to Christ. They, according to verses 33-34, cared for others with no regard for themselves. And they did this because they believed there was something better coming for them in Christ. They believed that sin’s fleeting pleasure could not compare to the “better possession and abiding one” that belonged to them in Christ. They “let goods and kindred go,” as the old hymn states it. They believed that it was better to suffer than to sin. Do you believe that? If you had to pick between persecution for faithfulness to Christ or the pleasures of this world through sin, what would you pick? This passage was written to inspire you, to compel you to pick suffering instead of sinning. It would be better to suffer than to sin.

Conclusion

So, verses 26-31 work in tandem with verses 32-39. There is the real and fearful prospect of falling into the hands of the living God because we have gone on sinning in this world, but the threat of judgment is not the only motivation offered in this passage. We are not called to repent and turn from sin merely because of judgment, but also because there is a better blessing and possession for those who trust in Christ.

What I am calling you to this morning is an escape from judgment unto a better possession! Anything that you have to give up in this life to follow Christ is worth it, because we gain a “better and abiding promise” in Christ!

What are you holding on to that you need to give up today? What sin are you continually and willfully returning to that you need to repent of today? What are you willing to give up in this life that you might gain Christ today?

Do not go on sinning, thinking that you will be fine. You will not be fine. You will not escape the judgment of God if you do not turn from your sins and trust in the Christ, the One who makes a “better and abiding promises” to us!