

## **Deliberately Sinning Brings Only Judgement**

**Hebrews 10:19-31 (vv. 26-31)**

**1 John 3:1-10**

### **I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND BIBLICAL CONTEXT**

#### **A. Historical Background**

The God who created the Universe *made Himself known* to the Israelites in a very Special Way. God was *audibly* and *visually* Present among the Israelites throughout the 40 Years of Wilderness Experience. During that time, God performed various glorious and unforgettable Miracles to let the Israelites know that HE is REAL, POWERFUL and ETERNALLY IMPACTFUL. In addition, The LAW was given during the time of Moses. ***The Law was given to help them/us understand what SIN is, what SIN does to people and to show how sinful we are.*** God did these things to distinguish Himself from the various useless gods – the man-made idols – all other people believed in and worshipped. God also raised spiritual leaders such as Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Samuel, David, and the Prophets to lead, inspire, teach and promote God's Plan of Salvation generation after generation. *However, God's people repeatedly failed due to their sinfulness – unfaithfulness and disobedience. Nevertheless, God being so Faithful continued to show Mercy and kept His Promises given to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David generation after generation.*

#### **B. Biblical Context**

Three specific things need to be mentioned regarding biblical context: **The LAW**, the **Necessity of Sacrifices** for the Forgiveness of SIN and **Deliberate SIN** which cannot be forgiven.

**a) The LAW** has many eternally significant roles vis-à-vis **SIN** and the need for **SALVATION**. **The Law reveals:**

- how *inherently* sinful/lawless we are,
- how *helpless* we are in overcoming SIN on our own,
- how *devastating/destructive* SIN can be when pursued,
- how SIN can even lead to Eternal Condemnation.

- b) SACRIFICIAL LAMB** is necessary to take our place! But the sacrificial blood of sheep, goats and bulls offered by the Priests *neither* could free sinners permanently from SIN (prevent us from sinning), the *guilty conscience* associated with the sins we commit *nor* the *destructive consequences* of SIN. *But the Blood of Christ fulfilled all the requirements of the Old Testament when He offered Himself as the Lamb of God!* Therefore, those of us who by faith have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior have been declared holy because of His Blood that cleansed us from SIN!
- c) DELIBERATE SIN.** Even though they witnessed firsthand the Glory and Mighty Power of God, they were stubborn in their sinful ways. Even though God warned them through Moses, they refused to put their faith in the LORD and rebelled against His divine instructions repeatedly. They **deliberately sinned** against God and perished in the Wilderness. The Israelites who deliberately sinned during the Wilderness journey didn't make it to the Promised Land. The Bible in 1 John 3:1-10 **stresses** that the Born-again/Redeemed cannot keep on sinning as if the Blood of Christ didn't cleanse them of their sins! (**vv. 6, 8-9**).

## II. THE LESSON: Deliberate Sinning Brings Only Judgement

In verses 19 through 21, the Bible highlights for us that since Jesus Christ not only cleared the way for us to “enter the Most High Place by His Blood,” but also is the High Priest over the Church, bold confidence must drive our faith in Him! The boldness must come from our thorough Knowledge of who Christ is and what He accomplished for us on the Cross! Equipped and empowered with such deep knowledge and understanding, the Bible urges and exhorts us to “**draw near to God.**”

As we examine the following verses, keep in mind that **SIN drives us away from God.** Therefore, there will be a *tremendous tension* as you and I strive to “draw near to God.” Temptation will be there. The Flesh is always attracted to sinful things! The Bible says the Spirit and the Flesh are in constant battle! [Romans 7:1-25 (**vv. 14-25**)].

### 1. vv. 19-25. Let Us Draw Near to God.

How can/do we “draw near to God?” The Scripture provides us with the sure way of “drawing near to God” as follows.

**a) Draw Near to God with a Sincere Heart (v. 22).**

The Scripture abundantly and plainly indicates that God searches, looks into the heart, values the heart and judges a person by what flows from his/her heart. The picture we get from the Bible is that the *Goodness or Evilness of a person flows out of his or her heart*. Love or hate flows out of the heart. The Bible commands saying “Love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matt. 23:37-40). The Bible also emphasizes **sincerity**. *God expects us to be sincere in our Love, Faith, Worship, Truth telling and deeds. God hates hypocrisy! Our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ must be sincere. Therefore, “to draw near to God,” we must have sincere hearts. We can fool people, not God. Faking it will only result in judgement!*

**b) Draw Near to God by Unwavering Faith (v. 23).**

To really grasp the divine revelations in verse 23, we must recall the biblical definition of Faith in Hebrews 11:1: “Now **faith** is *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” God is *invisible* to us in the *physical*. All about God is Spiritual in nature. Those who genuinely believe in God can *spiritually* see, know, understand and experience Him. *God also manifests spiritual things physically in tangible ways*. For example, God’s Promises become real for those who believe in His Word. As believers, by **Faith** we **hope** God’s Promises would *manifest tangibly* in our lives. In other words, we *firmly believe* the Promises of God will *become realities* in our lives in *tangible ways*! **Faith** plays a critical role as indicated in the definition.

In the definition, **Faith and Hope are inseparably linked**. Verse 23 indicates “**to draw near to God**,” *our hope in Christ must be firm -- unswerving*. If what we **hope** in Christ is *unsure*, then, our **faith** in Him is *questionable*. **Unsure Hope implies uncertainty of Faith**. If we have *doubts* about the Word of God, then we *don’t believe* in God’s Promises. *We cannot “draw near to God” with unbelief.* The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, “And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” **Anyone who claims to be a Christian but spreads doubts about the**

**existence of God or False Teaching about the Word of God is deliberately sinning.**

**c) Draw Near to God by Prompting Love and Good Deeds (v. 24).**

Verse 24 urges us to be *thoughtful and intentional* as we “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Sincere Love should be the *motivating factor* which compels us to encourage one another to do good. Such genuine acts of faith will “**draw us near to God.**” Christians who promote hate, lies, division, injustice, etc. are doing the opposite of what God commands. **Such people drifting away from God and can only expect Judgement.**

**d) Draw Near to God by Not Forsaking the Fellowship (v. 25).**

God in His Infinite Wisdom *initiated and instituted* the Church immediately after the Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before He Ascended back to Heaven, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit descended and rested upon the 120 believers in the form of a fire which didn't consume them! **And hence was born the New Testament Church!** As we read and study the Book of Acts, we understand that ***The Fellowship of the Believers is Fundamental to the Church.*** God inhabits and operates through the Church. *God designed the Church to become His Instrument to expand His Plan of Salvation throughout the world.* If we understand this, then we shouldn't take lightly The Fellowship of the Believers! The Bible says, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Therefore, “**to draw near to God,**” we must regularly be part of the **Fellowship of the Believers** to praise, worship and serve Christ with sincere hearts. This truth should be common knowledge among the believers after a certain period of time (provided the pastors and Bible teachers have been diligent and faithful in their calling). *In addition, every disciple of Christ must take it upon himself or herself to regularly read and study the Word of God for their own understanding. In other words, each believer has the responsibility to seek knowledge and understanding about his or her faith in Christ! Regularly attending Worship Service on Sundays, Wednesday Bible Study, and serving God in the Church is basic elementary knowledge of our faith. The Bible says, **Forsaking the Fellowship of the Believers is a deliberate sinful act.***

## 2. vv. 26-31. **Deliberately Sinning Brings Only Judgement.**

There is a **Warning** in this section which we must take seriously.

**Deliberate Sin is a sin committed knowingly.** *In other words, the person has **foreknowledge** about the deed/action he or she is committing as being SIN in the God's sight.*

### a) vv. 26-27. **You Can't Keep on Sinning After You Know What Sin Is.**

The Bible says, "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sin is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgement ... ." Notice the *emphasis* on "deliberately keep on sinning" and "after we have received the knowledge of the truth." After you have gained "**the knowledge of the Truth,**" you cannot say I don't know. After you gave your life to Christ, after you have been preached to and taught about your salvation, God's plan for your life, why you must shun sin, etc. for years, you cannot say I don't know about the **elementary truth** about **your faith, SIN, judgement, and so on.**

### b) vv. 28-31. **Deliberately Sinning is the Utmost Disrespect for Christ.**

To *deliberately keep on Sinning* is tantamount to *intentionally trampling* on the Blood of Christ. This becomes clear when we recall that Jesus offered Himself as the **Lamb of God** so that by **His Blood** our **sins** have been washed away when we gave our lives to Him by faith. *Our Redemption came at high cost paid by Jesus which is incalculable!* To deliberately keep on sinning is to treat the Precious Blood of Christ as a *trivial matter!* The Bible indicates those who deliberately keep on sinning can only expect God's judgement. "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

## III. CONCLUSION

To escape God's Judgement, "**draw need to God**" by taking to heart the divine revelations and applying them in your life. **Now that you have been taught, you cannot say "I don't know."**