**Greater Than All - wk 13 – With and Without Jesus**

**Kids playing in the street – stop!! When you see a car. Car!! Urgency of danger - harsh strong words to save a life. The language of Hebrews…**

**The primary arch - don’t give up but grow up!**

**Where we are so far: Chap 1-3 - Jesus the creator of all things, is greater than all creation! Chap 4-10 - Jesus is greater than any earthly religious system and the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Last wk - knowing this we can confidently draw near to God and must draw near to each other – in Him.**

**\*\* Don’t give up on Jesus and don’t give up meeting together.**

**Today a difficult and controversial passage. Which can be easily understood. I’ll do my best to give a fair understanding of it.**

**Just finished saying - stay committed to the gospel and to each other - then continues with warning and encouragement.**

**First - A Serious Warning**

**Hebrews 10:26 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.**

**The writer has already that those in faith are made perfect, holy, and set apart (sanctified) forever - thru Jesus.**

**What is this? Isolated it seems to say one can lose salvation. But knowing what the writer has said it’s something different.**

**Same chapter - Hebrews 10:10 / 10:14 For by one sacrifice He (God) has made perfect forever (ESV “for all time”) those who are being made holy. (Sanctified – and being sanctified)**

**Those truly the Lords are made holy (sanctified) forever by faith in Jesus – and in turn reflect that in growth.**

**With this in mind v26 picks up on this thought – let’s break it down - 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning… (If without conviction we return to our old ways)**

1. **If you are absent conviction and living in sin you are not the Lords**

**If absent conviction, change, or growth- you’re not truly saved.**

**\*This is not about stumbling and struggling – this is about someone who knows and renounces the truth of Jesus.**

**26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth (if we hear and understand this truth of Jesus and keep living in rebellion with God) no sacrifice for sins is left,**

1. **You can have knowledge of Jesus, without faith in Jesus.**

**We see here a difference between faith and knowledge**

**Heb 10 leans in on what was said in Heb 4 - Heb 4:2 For good news came to us just as to them, (those who hear it but reject it) but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.**

**They heard it, understood it, tasted that it was good, but did not have true faith, “united by faith” Have you?**

**Heb 10 is not a random thought about losing our salvation. Remember - talking to those thinking of going back to the old ways - simply saying, “I have given you the truth and have laid it out for you - and if you still reject this and insist on the old way - you are in sin and you do not have forgiveness of sin.**

**Hebrews 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left… (there is no other way)**

1. **To walk away from Jesus is to walk away from all hope**

**To reject Jesus is to forsake God himself and there is no other way to him but through Christ – without Jesus there is no hope for salvation.**

**No religion, person, relationship can save you.**

**Hebrews 10:27 (w/out Jesus all that is left is…) but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. (wow strong words – Heb 12:29 - for our “God is a consuming fire.”)**

1. **Judgement will follow those without Christ… a “raging fire”**

**The reality of Hell… Its reality can try to be ignored, but it is still there.**

**We cannot become blind to God’s holy judgement.**

**Punishment worse than death.**

**The writer is making a plea. What are you going to do with the truth of Jesus? Are you sure you want to ignore Jesus?**

**(Then an OT comparison) 10:28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. (public judgement)**

**Some would say the NT is the cuddly Jesus – we are all okay. The OT God is the mean one. Jesus is too nice to allow people to go to hell. But the NT consistently says we will face God as sinners in our self or as righteous in Christ. No other options.**

**29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

**?? “Sanctified them” ?? Knowing what the writer said previously – many scholars contend 2 possible interpretations:**

**1. Them = us, not the individual (other translations)**

**2. Not the sanctification that is forever - but an outward sanctification - They looked the part, but inside no HS**

**(Visible people of God – some are lost) Ezekiel 34:17 - 17 “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep…**

**The people of God – referred to those saved and lost**

**It seems judgement will be more sever for those who hear it and reject.**

**To hear the truth of Jesus and still want the blood of goats and bulls – is a spit in the face of God himself. “Thanks, but no thanks! I would rather have religion than you, Jesus.”**

**When someone is given the love, wonder, beauty and offer of Christ and rejects the truth (Heb 29) Described 3 things they are doing:**

* **They trampled on Jesus – trample under foot, disdain (Image that!)**
* **They treated the cross as nothing- (unholy) belittle, see as garbage**
* **They insulted the Holy Spirit – mock and show contempt**

**Mark 3 / Matt 12 - unforgivable sin – to trash talk the HS. They were looking at God in the eyes and say you are not holy and of the devil.**

**Hebrews – a person who knows the truth and deliberately says no and regards Jesus as foolish and unclean – beware!**

**Similar to what is said in - Heb 6:4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, (understand the truth) who have tasted the heavenly gift, (know the truth is good) and have shared in the Holy Spirit, (experience the HS) 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God (benefited from the truth in their life) and the powers of the age to come, (experienced the supernatural) 6 and then have fallen away, (and walk away - no thanks) to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.**

**Same language as Heb 10 – a mocking and contempt to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. (Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

**God’s response is… Hebrews 10:30 For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” (Deut 32:35) and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” (Deut 32:36, PS 135:14) 31 It is a dreadful thing (fearful thing) to fall into the hands of the living God. (When the loving hands of God are also fearful)**

**Warning – you do not want to face God without faith in Jesus**

**God is merciful and loving - and perfect holiness. God is a God of grace, but He is also a God of wrath and rage against sin.**

**Now - A Loving Encouragement - Remember when?**

**10:32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. (First mention of their early faith and the persecution because of it.) 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 suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. (they knew Jesus was better than possessions, earthly comfort, and even earthly freedom)**

**What you had seemed real, why do you want to walk out now?**

**I see a real frustration with the author here. I understand it. I’ve served with and walked with adults and teens – who were “on fire for God” – who left the faith. Were they saved?**

**Writer is encouraging them - If you made it through that… you can make through this season of doubt!**

1. **When you feel like giving up – remember God’s faithfulness!**

**Remember what he has done for you – has done for others.**

**Remember when it was hard, and God came through!**

**Use it as an opportunity to draw close to God’s faithfulness!**

**Hebrews 10:35 So do not throw away your confidence; (don’t throw away what you know is true) 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.**

1. **When you feel like giving up – remember the great reward!**

**Promise of God – the kingdom of Heaven with God himself.**

**Trails and difficulties remind us that – this is not our home!**

**We are just passing through - God has something better!**

**“This too shall pass” – mom. She saw the reward.**

**Hebrews 10:37 For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.” (Habakkuk 2:3 - not the second coming– this is a quote from an OT prophet referring to the first coming. 600 yrs before Jesus. Saying Jesus fulfill Hab.) 38 And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.” (Habakkuk 2:4) 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**

**The righteous – those in Christ – endure. They have faith that Jesus is who he says he is and will do what he says.**

1. **When you feel like giving up - remember the faithful persevere**

**True followers do not draw back. We do not run! Retreat or quit Jesus! It is not a phase or just emotions.**

**This is known as Perseverance of the Saints.**

**World with try to lead you astray (culture, trends, opinions, expectation)**

**People will try to lead you astray (Friends, family, people you respect)**

**Pastors will try to lead you astray (Churches, ministers, books, leaders…)**

**But those in Christ - ENDURE – PERSIST - don’t shrink back – don’t throw away your confidence – PERSEVERE – do not quit!!!**

**True faith perseveres! Mentioned in - Heb 3:6 - And we are His (Jesus) house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. // 3:14 For we have come to share (partakers) in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. (v.14 Echoes verse 1 and 6)**

**If in the face of opposition, you hold fast to Jesus and don’t give up it shows you are truly His. ALSO - if we do not hold fast to the end, then we "were not true partakers of Christ."**

**Failure to persevere is not a sign of losing salvation but of never having a true salvation.**

**This is backed up in other scriptures - 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.**

**“Well, I don’t agree with that.” Why? Because it does not fit your opinion of what you have experienced or want to believe?**

**Is the Bible the final on this - or our tradition and background?**

**Four things to consider today**

**1. A God without justice and judgment is not a loving God**

**They go hand in hand. A good, just God motivated by Love.**

**It was the justice and judgment of God that sent Jesus.**

**A God of grace (perfect sacrifice) and justice (perfect judge)**

**2. Our view of hell will either be based on faith or feelings**

**I don’t feel hell is right – God would not do that.**

**Jesus spoke more about hell than any other Biblical person.**

**If there is no judgment from God… why did Jesus die?**

**3. If there is a hell, then our friends and family don’t need good people in their lives, they need God’s people in their lives.**

**People to stand in the gap for our family and neighbors pray for them. Love them and share with them the truth of Jesus!**

**4. Jesus is our only hope!**

**Without faith in Him there is no forgiveness of sin. Where there is no Jesus, there is no hope! We need Jesus!**

**It’s the difference between - Standing before God in sin or standing before God in Christ.**

**Without Jesus – we will face the one and only Holy God without the grace of the cross of Christ. But with Jesus…**

**Hebrews 10:39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back (put in reverse – back up) and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.**

**What will you so with this today?**

**You need perseverance – to live this life unto Christ - fulfill his will for as long as you might live. Endurance is built through trials – James 1:2-4 / Romans 5:5)**

**Perseverance - Romans 8:31-39 – nothing can separate us…**

**Justification chapter 11**

**Have you had to forfeit a sports game or board game? Quit a race? Running and athletic comparison are used often in Hebrews…**