



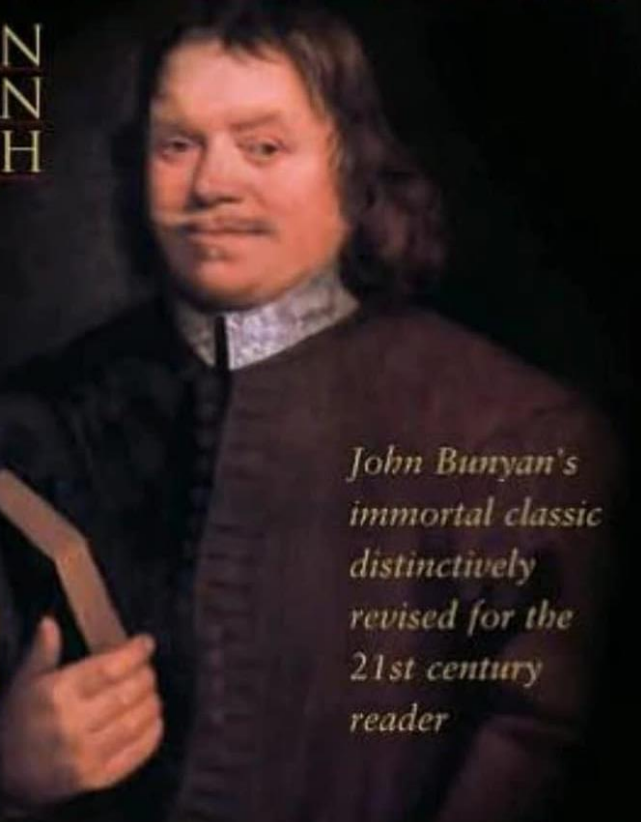
HEBREWS

JESUS IS BETTER

INCLUDES AUDIO EXCERPTS CD

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

IN
MODERN
ENGLISH

A portrait of John Bunyan, a 17th-century English writer, depicted from the chest up. He has long, dark, wavy hair and a mustache. He is wearing a dark, high-collared garment over a white shirt. He is holding a book or a scroll in his right hand.

*John Bunyan's
immortal classic
distinctively
revised for the
21st century
reader*

Classic

JOHN BUNYAN

The steps of apostates (Temporary and Turnback) as discussed by Christian and Hopeful

1. They begin to ignore thoughts of God, death, and judgment.
2. They gradually stop private spiritual practices like prayer, resisting temptation, and mourning for sin.
3. They avoid the company of passionate and faithful Christians.
4. They grow indifferent to public worship, like attending church or reading the Bible.

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The steps of apostates (Temporary and Turnback) as discussed by Christian and Hopeful:

5. They start criticizing the faults of other Christians to justify abandoning their faith.
6. They associate with worldly, careless, and immoral people.
7. They engage in sinful conversations in secret, using others' behavior as an excuse to sin.
8. They start committing small sins openly.
9. Eventually, they become hardened and reveal their true selves, leading to destruction unless God's grace intervenes.

The Structure of Hebrews

10:19-25

Two gospel privileges: "Since we have..."

- 1) Confidence to enter... (vv. 19-20)
- 2) A great high priest... (v. 21)

Three exhortations: "Let us..."

- 1) Draw near (v. 22)
- 2) Hold fast (v. 23)
- 3) Consider one another (vv. 24-25)

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Three exhortations: "Let us..."

- 1) Draw near (v. 22)
- 2) Hold fast (v. 23)
- 3) Consider one another (vv. 24-25)

Three motivations: "For..."

- 1) A warning: "the Lord will judge..." (vv. 26-31)
- 2) An encouragement: "recall the former days..." (vv. 32-34)
- 3) A challenge: "therefore, do not throw away your confidence..." (vv. 35-39)

Hebrews 10:19-39

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:19-39

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 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.

Hebrews 10:19-39

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.

Hebrews 10:19-39

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.

Hebrews 10:19-39

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.

Outline

1. **An exhortation (v. 23)**
2. **A warning (vv. 26-31)**
3. **An encouragement (vv. 32-34)**
4. **A challenge (vv. 35-39)**



1. An exhortation

Hebrews 10:23

Hebrews 10:19-23

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.



1. An exhortation

Hebrews 10:23



2. A warning

Hebrews 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-31

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.

2. A warning

- What does *“go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth”* (v. 26) mean?



The apostle describes as sinners not those who fall in any kind of way but those who forsake the Church and separate themselves from Christ . . . there is a great difference between individual lapses and a universal desertion of this kin . . . It is clear from the context that the apostle is referring here only to apostates... He declares that for such there is no longer any offering for sin because they have sinned willfully after receiving knowledge of the truth. At the same time Christ daily offers Himself for sinners who have fallen in any other way so that they need look for no other offering to atone for their sins . . .



Those who hold to Christ are called by God daily to reconciliation, are daily refreshed by the blood of Christ, and find daily atonement for their sins by His eternal sacrifice. If no salvation is to be found apart from Him, we should not be surprised that those who let go of Him of their own accord are deprived of every hope of pardon... The sacrifice of Christ is efficacious for believers right to the time of death even if they repeatedly sin . . . The apostle is therefore directing his attention only on those who desert Christ in their unbelief and so deprive themselves of the benefit of His death.

—John Calvin

2. A warning

- What does "*there remains no more sacrifice for sins*" (v. 26) mean?

2. A warning

- How are God's threats of *judgment* (vv. 27, 30) *punishment* (vv. 28-29), and *vengeance* (vv. 30-31) loving and just?

Hebrews 10:26-31

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.



In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: "What are you asking God to do?" To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start, smoothing every difficulty and offering every miraculous help? But He has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven. To leave them alone? Alas, I am afraid that is what He does.

—C. S. Lewis



3. An encouragement

Hebrews 10:32-34

2. An encouragement

- **An encouragement to recall their former endurance (vv. 32-33)**

Hebrews 10:32-33

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.

3. An encouragement

- **An encouragement to recall their former endurance (vv. 32-33)**
- **An encouragement to remember their future hope (v. 34)**

Hebrews 10:32-34

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.



People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa...Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger, now and then ... may make us pause, and cause the spirit to waver ... but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice.

—David Livingstone

4. A challenge

Hebrews 10:35-39

Hebrews 10:35-39

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.

4. A challenge

Stated negatively:

v. 35: *Do not throw away your
confidence*

v. 39: *We are not those who shrink
back*

4. A challenge

Stated negatively:

v. 35: *Do not throw away your confidence*

v. 39: *We are not those who shrink back*

Stated positively:

v. 22: *Let us hold fast our confession of hope*

v. 39: *Let us draw near...in full assurance of faith*

4. A challenge

→ The challenge is really a call to enduring hope and persevering faith. It is the call to keep our eyes on Jesus and his promises. It is the call to remember that Jesus is better.



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