



INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 10:26-39

Many years ago, my [Pastor Cisco] doctor told me that my cholesterol was getting high. He said if I didn't bring it down, "I'm going to put you on a pill!" My doctor's warning wasn't given just to scare me. Although, it did! My doctor wanted action. He wanted me to change my diet & exercise routine so my health would improve. With God's help, I was able to get the cholesterol down and have avoided that pill (so far!).

The writer of Hebrews issued several warnings. But he didn't issue them just to scare his readers. He wanted action. This is evident in this week's passage from Hebrews. "Like a good doctor, the writer has given a warning not primarily to frighten, but to remind the Hebrews of a better way of living. He has two weapons in his armory. First, he calls them in verse 32 to 'remember', ever a good Christian exercise. It had become easy to forget the first zeal for the gospel in spite of persecution and prison. This forgetfulness can happen in individuals and in churches, and is often the by-product of more comfortable days. Just as wartime days can produce a new solidarity in the hour of danger, so tough days for the gospel can draw Christians together and nerve the arm; days of ease do the reverse.

The other weapon is his expression of confidence in his readers that they will, in fact, show resolve. He does that beautifully in verse 39 by putting himself in the equation, with one of those 'we' passages that make you walk tall. Testing days are coming; resolve is needed; but we move towards the day of the Lord's return and all its glory."¹

Watch It Bible Principles

Watch Bible Principles #16; Heb. 10:26-39 www.villagebible.church/bibleprinciples

Open it

1. What is one warning that your parents gave you as a kid that you still remember all these years later?

¹ Philip H Hacking, *Opening up Hebrews*, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2006), 67.

The death penalty was given to those who violated certain portions of the Old Testament law. But the death penalty was an earthly punishment, and the author of Hebrews says a worse punishment awaits those who reject the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. As we have seen so often in Hebrews, the earthly punishment forecasts and anticipates a heavenly punishment. And the heavenly punishment is worse.²

10. The author warns that people who sin deliberately have a “fearful expectation of judgment.” Describe how a warning like this may help to keep us from sinning.

11. What is ironic about rejecting the Son of God?

“In verses 32–34, the author calls these believers to remember the earlier days, which most likely means the years just after their conversion. They should remember their strong zeal for the Lord and how they handled the difficulties they experienced on account of following Christ in a world opposed to him. They endured sufferings for their faith then, so they can endure suffering in their present situation.”³

12. Think back to the early days of your walk with Jesus. What differences do you notice about your relationship with God then and now?

² Thomas R. Schreiner, *Commentary on Hebrews*, Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015), 325.

³ R. Albert Mohler, *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*, Christ-Centered Exposition (Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Reference ; B & H Publishing Group, 2017), 165.

13. Describe how you respond to suffering now compared to when you first became a Christian.

14. List any ways you have been “publicly exposed to reproach and affliction” for your faith.

15. Verse 34 describes people losing their possessions because of persecution. Describe why this would be so difficult and at least one way that it could be made easier.

Verses 35-39 encourage us to have endurance through our trials because of the promised return of Jesus Christ. Our Savior is coming back for us! And we'll spend forever with God. Verses 37-38 feature an allusion to Habakkuk 2:3-4. It stresses the importance of believers waiting for the return of the King.

16. What are some areas of our world where you see hopelessness? How can the promise of Jesus' return fill these situations with hope?

17. How does the promise of Jesus' return help you have endurance during difficulties?