

The Stern Warning of Hebrews 10:26-31

A Study by Franklin

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on **sinning willfully** after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there remains **no more sacrifice** for sins (27) but a terrifying expectation of **judgment** and THE FURY OF A **FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES**. (28) Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. (29) How much severer **punishment** do you think he will deserve who has **trampled** under foot the **Son of God**, and has regarded as **unclean** the **blood of the covenant** by which he was **sanctified**, and has insulted 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 terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

This passage can be frightening. It is difficult to understand and seems to contradict other passages of the Bible. It has been a topic of debate for hundreds of years.

To come to a correct understanding we must be aware of the conformational bias we all have that is based on the doctrinal position we have been taught and have accepted as right. We must not allow our bias to direct our study.

To clearly understand a difficult passage it is important to study the context in which the passage exists. Therefore:

Hebrews 7:25-27 Therefore **He is able also to save FOREVER** those who draw near to God **through Him**, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them. (26) For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; (27) who does not need **daily**, like those high priests, to offer up **sacrifices**, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did **once for all** when **He offered up Himself**.

The issue is: Only **One** Sacrifice pleases the LORD God. To add even one more, or anything else, **is to declare the One He provided to not be sufficient**. This does NOT PLEASE HIM since the One He provided was His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST.

Hebrews 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own Blood**, He entered the Holy place **once for all**, having **obtained ETERNAL redemption**. True believers will eternally belong to HIM.

- For eternal life, all that is needed is believing the Truth of who HE is and what His **One Sacrifice** has done for us.

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the **Blood of Christ**, who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse** your conscience **from dead works** to serve the living God?

- To **understand** and **believe** the truth of the **One Sacrifice** and the **finished work** accomplished by HIS BLOOD, completely clears your conscience and replaces guilt and “dead works” with serving the LORD out of Thanksgiving and Gratefulness.

Hebrews 9:26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now **once** at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to **put away sin by The Sacrifice of Himself**.

- Sin has been “put away” and is no longer an issue with the LORD for our **eternal life**. The One & Only **Sacrifice** that could do that has been accomplished and accepted.
- Therefore, there is **now no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus** for the law of the Spirit, of **life in Christ Jesus**, has set you **FREE from the law of sin and of death**. Romans 8:1-2

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered **once to bear the sins** of many, will appear a second time for salvation **without reference to sin**, to those who eagerly await Him.

- “without reference to sin” is clearly saying - **sin is not the issue** with the LORD for eternal Life, for **those who receive** the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in **life** through the One, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17
- “will appear a second time for salvation” speaks of another aspect of salvation. At His second coming we will then be saved from the evils and injustices of this world. [In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. John 16:33]

Hebrews 10:10 By this will we **have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once** for all.

- By His will we were **set apart** and **made holy** by what the BLOOD of JESUS did for us and NOT BY ANYTHING THAT WE DID.

Hebrews 10:18 Now where there **is forgiveness** of these things, **there is NO LONGER ANY OFFERING FOR SIN**.

Forgiveness is available NOW, to all who will believe. **There is no other provision, no other sacrifice or offering that is able or sufficient.** This is the issue that is being addressed and emphasized in these passages.

If we turn to any other sacrifice - or add any other requirement – then we are saying that the Blood of Jesus is not entirely sufficient. **And this is not pleasing to the LORD**, to say the least.

The **Blood** of JESUS CHRIST **alone**, is Accepted by the LORD GOD.

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, **brethren** (he is writing to believers) **since we have confidence** to enter the Holy Place by the **blood of Jesus**, (20) by a new and **living way** (as opposed to dead works) **which He opened for us** through the veil, that is, His flesh, (21) and since we have a Great Priest over the house of God, (22) let us **draw near** with a **sincere heart in full assurance** of faith (in the One Sacrifice that has forgiven our sin), **having our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Titus 3:5 **Not by works** of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the **washing** of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit NKJV

- o “works” will not accomplish regeneration. Only Belief.

The **Blood of Jesus** has forgiven us and cleansed us. And we have a **Great Priest** interceding for us. That should give us a **sincere heart in full assurance of faith** to **draw near**. THEREFORE:

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope (in His Blood) **WITHOUT WAVERING**, for **He who promised is faithful**

HE IS FAITHFUL, TRUSTWORTHY, we should BELIEVE and NEVER DOUBT what HIS BLOOD has accomplished and done for us.

HOWEVER:

Hebrews 10:26 and if **we** (brethren, believers) **go on sinning willfully** (turning to and relying on some other work or sacrifice) **after receiving the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins remains** (there is nothing else to add or to turn to) (27) **but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment**, and the fury of a **fire** which will **consume the adversaries**

The issue remains – there is only ONE Sacrifice for sin.

Nothing else can forgive sins. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

Should you **add** any other sacrifice to what HE has provided, any other offering, work, or good deeds - like fasting, reading five chapters daily in your Bible or witnessing to five people every day, or any other penitence or religious effort, thinking that it is necessary to obtain or keep Eternal Life, all of this is "dead works" and an insult to the LORD's provision.

Titus 3:5 It is **not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us**

- Should anyone add anything to the sacrifice HE has provided, then His displeasure is provoked.

A true Believer with the **knowledge of the truth** of the **One Sacrifice** – The Blood of JESUS - to turn to any other sacrifice **can expect judgment**.

This seemingly does not apply to a NEW Believer who has NOT yet come to the full **knowledge of the truth**.

Hebrews 10:27 but a certain terrifying expectation of **judgment**, and the fury of a **fire which will consume the adversaries**

- True Believers **are not** His **adversaries**. We are friends, His children.
- Judgment means: receiving the due consequence of one's actions.
- Believers and Nonbelievers **do not face the same judgment**:

1 Peter 4:17 For it is time for **judgment** to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with **us first**, what will be the outcome for **those who do not *obey** the gospel of God?

*Strong's Concordance says this word means: **to willfully and perversely disbelieve and disobey**. WE HAVE BELIEVED the gospel !

The **Believers Fire** does NOT **consume** the person [who is Very Valuable] it **purifies** and **consumes** only what is worthless, of no value.

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each **will receive his own REWARD according to his own labor**. (9) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. . . . (12) Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (13) each man's **work** will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be **revealed with fire**, and the **fire** itself will

test the quality of each man's **work**. (14) If any man's **work** which he has built on it remains, he will receive a **REWARD**. (15) If any man's work is burned up, **he will suffer loss**; but **he himself will be saved**, yet so as through fire.

The judgment of believers is for the purpose of Purifying & Rewards.

- ❖ The **Nonbelievers Fire**: Matthew 13:37-43 2 Peter 2:1-22

The author next uses an example of Judgment of HIS People:

Hebrews 10:28 Anyone who has **set aside** the Law of Moses **dies without mercy** on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

He is referring to: Deuteronomy 17:2-6 speaking of **His people**, Israel, in **blood covenant** with Him, who **knowing** the truth, **willfully turn** from the Old Testament sacrifices to other sacrifices, are to be put to death - a **natural death** – an example & warning to all of the LORD's **displeasure** at such actions.

- This is a serious sin which results in severe discipline: **physical death**
Read: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

If HIS people received this degree of severe judgment, then

Hebrews 10:29 How much more **severe punishment** do you think he will deserve who has **trampled underfoot the Son of God**, and has regarded as **unclean the blood** of the covenant by which he **was sanctified**, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

- **trampled under foot the Son of God** - to treat with great **contempt** and intolerable insolence, as if He, JESUS CHRIST, has no value. It is the highest provocation to trample upon His person, denying Him to be The Son of God and The Savior. **A believer would never do this.**
- **Regarded as unclean the Blood of The Covenant:** **Unclean**– the word means: **common**, not different from any other. **Not Holy. Denying His Deity.** A true believer would never think this way.
- **Sanctified** – **NOTICE he did not say Justified.** **A true believer could never do the above.** Therefore the reference here is to an **unbeliever** who is **sanctified only** by **association** with a true believer as stated in 1 Corinthians 7:14. Or like the "mixed multitude"

that came out of Egypt with the LORD's people Israel (Exodus 12:38). They came only because they saw and wanted the LORD's blessings. The word **sanctified** has two meanings: 1. made holy and 2. set apart. Here and in other verses the word means only: "**set apart.**"

Example:

Exodus 13:2 **Sanctify to Me every firstborn** means "set apart." It does not mean "make holy to Me every firstborn" as we cannot do that.

1 Peter 3:15 **sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.** It does not mean make Him holy. We do not make Him Holy, He Is Holy. It clearly means: "in your hearts **set apart** Christ as Lord." NIV

- **Insulted the Spirit of grace** – by saying "**no**" to The Truth of what the Holy Spirit says that the "**precious blood of Jesus**" (1Peter1:19) has **freely** done for us without any addition from me except to believe.

When a person turns away from Jesus Christ and His Blood - the One and only Sacrifice which Forgives and Cleanses - they are turning to a religious activity and walking on – which is a great insult - what Jesus has done for all, by His Blood.

A true believer –after receiving the knowledge of the truth (10:26) – would **not** knowingly or purposely ever **trample underfoot the Son of God, and regard as **unclean the blood of the covenant.****

Hebrews 10:30-31 For **we know Him** who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." **And again,** "The Lord will judge **HIS PEOPLE.**" (31) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- **Vengeance is Mine, I will repay**
This verse continues from vs.29 with reference to all those who **deny** and **reject** the salvation provided by the BLOOD of HIS SON.
- It is a quote from Deuteronomy 32:35 where He contrasts "**His children**" and those that **are not**. (see vs.5, 9, 32, 36 & 41 **I will render vengeance on My **adversaries**, and I will repay those who **hate Me.****)

His **Vengeance** on His adversaries - those who reject the provision made by the BLOOD of HIS SON - is expressed throughout the scriptures.

For example: The Parable of the Wheat & Tares: Matthew 13: 30, 38-43

(30) Allow **both to grow together** (sanctified by association) until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles **to burn** them up; but gather the wheat into **my barn**." (38). . . as for the good seed, these are the **sons of the kingdom**; and the tares are the **sons of the evil one**; (39) and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. (40) So just as the **tares** are gathered up and **burned with fire**, so shall it be at the end of the age. (41) The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, (42) and will throw them into the **furnace of fire**; in that place there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**. (43) Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Hebrews 10:30 And also, The Lord will **judge HIS PEOPLE**

- **And also** is a legitimate translation according to Strong's Concordance and indicates **a shift** to another similar but **not** necessarily the same event. Vindication and retribution on the unbelievers, but judge His believers (see 1 Peter 4:17).
- He is now talking about "**His People**" who have believed in Him and His work of Forgiveness, Justification, Reconciliation, and Redemption by HIS BLOOD.
- For the true believer, God's **vengeance** was poured out on HIS SON. JESUS CHRIST **paid** the penalty for our transgressions (Isaiah 53) and has **sealed Eternal Life for us**.
- Therefore there is **now no condemnation** for those who are **in** Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of **LIFE in Christ Jesus** has set you **FREE from the law of sin and of death**. Romans 8:1-2

The LORD GOD is Merciful and Gracious, full of Loving Kindness to HIS sons & daughters (Hebrews 8:12; James 5:11). **However, we are responsible for our actions:**

Hebrews 12:6 for those whom the LORD loves HE **disciplines**, and HE **punishes** every son whom He receives.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (9) Therefore we also have as **our ambition**, . . . **to be pleasing** to Him. (10) For **we must all appear before the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**, so that **each one** may be **recompensed** for his deeds in the body, according to **what he has done**, whether **good or bad**.

The believer's **works** will be judged at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**.

OUR **WORKS** WILL BE JUDGED, **NOT OUR SINS**, for we have already seen that the sins of the believer were judged in Christ on the cross, **Therefore** there is now no condemnation for those who are **in** Christ Jesus. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you **free from the law of sin and of death**. (3) For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did: sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and **as an offering for sin**, He **condemned** (judged) **sin** in the flesh Romans 8:1-3

At the judgment seat of Christ, **the believer will give an account of himself** to God. Therefore, we should look to our own works, and not judge the works of others.

Romans 14:10-13 **But you, why do you judge** your brother? Or you again, **why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**. (11) For it is written, "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to GOD." (12) So then **each one of us will give an account of himself to God**. (13) Therefore **let us not judge one another** anymore, but rather determine this — not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

It is a most humbling thought to know that someday as a believer we will face all of our works - "**good or bad**" and "**give account for every careless word**" (Matthew 12:36-37).

Some will **be ashamed**:

1 John 2:28 **Now, little children, abide in Him**, so that when He appears, we may have **confidence** and not **shrink away from Him** in **shame** at His coming.

And many will "**suffer loss**:" 1 Corinthians 3:15
NOT THE LOSS OF SALVATION, but the LOSS OF REWARDS.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a **terrifying thing** to fall into the hands of the living God

Even for HIS people: 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. (2) They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. (3) They all ate the same spiritual food (4) and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, God **was not pleased with most of them**; their **bodies were scattered** over the desert. (6) Now these things occurred as **examples** to keep us from **setting our hearts on evil things** as they did. (7) Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." (8) We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did and **in one day twenty-three thousand of them died**. (9) We should not test the Lord, as some of them did and were **killed** by snakes. (10) And do not grumble, as some of them did and were **killed** by the destroying angel. (11) **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.**

Hebrews 12:5-11 you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline** of the LORD, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; (6) for those **WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES**, and **He scourges every son** whom He receives. (7) **Endure** hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good**, SO THAT we may **share His holiness**. (11) All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet **to those** who have been **trained** by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful **fruit of righteousness**.

James 1:2-4 **Count it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that **you may be perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 10:32-34 But remember the former days, when, after being **enlightened**, you **endured a great conflict of sufferings**, (33) partly by being made a public spectacle through **reproaches** and **tribulations**, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. (34) For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, **knowing** that you have for yourselves a **better possession** and a lasting one.

The author is **encouraging** his readers to remember and return to the zeal, the commitment, and faithfulness we had when we first believed and endure the rejections, reproaches and tribulations that come to those who turn away from the old ways of the world to follow Jesus.

He is **encouraging** us to **not** accept the self-centered ways of the world but to stay focused on ministry to people, giving to the needs of others, knowing that our citizenship and home is in heaven.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (12) Now if **any man** builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (13) **each man's work will become evident**; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **test the quality** of each man's **work**. (14) If any **man's work** which he has built on it **remains**, he **will receive a reward**. (15) If any man's **work is burned up**, **he will suffer loss**; **BUT HE HIMSELF WILL BE SAVED**, yet so as through fire.

"WILL BE SAVED" – Hebrews 10:14 because by **one sacrifice** He has made **perfect FOREVER** those who are sanctified. (by faith. Acts 26:18)

Hebrews 10:35 **Therefore**, do not throw away your confidence (in serving the LORD, the context from vs.34) which has a **GREAT reward**.

- The issue is: **not losing your reward**.
Not losing the blessings / the privileges / the intimacy that comes from **Pleasing the LORD**.
Therefore we have as our ambition . . . to be **pleasing** to Him. 2Cor.5:9

Matthew 25:19-21 Now after a **long time** the Master of those servants came and **settled accounts** with them. (20) The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents. (21) His Master said to him, **Well done, good and faithful servant**. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; **enter into the joy of your Master**.

This servant Pleased his Master and was greatly blessed and rewarded.

Hebrews 10:36-37 For you have need of **endurance** so that when you have **done the will of God**, you may receive what was **promised**. (37) For yet in a very little while, He who **is coming will come**, and will not delay.

- Many of the Promises in the Bible are conditional upon our faithful service and obedience.

Matthew 25:34-36 Then the King will say to those on His right, **Come**, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (35) For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; (36) naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.

Hebrews 10:38 But **My righteous one shall live** by faith; and if **he** (His righteous one) **shrinks** (or draws) **back**, My Soul has no **pleasure** in him.

- The issue is: A True Believer (**Righteous** by faith) living a life that is PLEASING to the LORD by serving HIM and others, and enduring any necessary hardship (vs33).
- If His Righteous one **draws back** from living a life of serving and hardship (vs.32-34), **he is not pleasing** the LORD. Jesus is our example (1Peter 2:21-23).

To “shrink or draw back” **does not mean the person no longer believes** with loss of eternal life. He is only drawing back from obedience and serving. Jesus remains his Savior, but not his LORD.
(Luke 6:46)

When He says: **My righteous one shall live** - we must remember:

- ❖ **The LORD knows who His sheep are:**
John 10:27-28 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, . . . and I give eternal life to them, and they will NEVER perish**
- ❖ **And the LORD knows who ARE NOT His sheep:**
Matthew 7:23 **And then I will declare to them, I NEVER knew you**

There are many examples in the Scriptures of the LORD's Blood Redeemed, Justified and Righteous by faith, believers in HIM, that for various misguided reasons turn back to old religious habits, sinful ways, other sacrifices, or idols.

They turn to these other avenues in ignorance; driven by a religious spirit that gives them a sense of satisfaction and pride by thinking **they earn** their righteousness and acceptance because of their good works.

- The LORD tells us to abound in **good works** but **not** for the purpose of earning any degree righteousness (Mt.5:16; Eph.2:10 Titus 3:5).

When we turn from the **One Sacrifice** and ADD ANYTHING ELSE, we are saying that the BLOOD of JESUS is not entirely sufficient. Therefore, you can see how this **does not please** the LORD, after what JESUS has done for us, and brings His judgment and discipline upon the person.

Here is one example:

Ezekiel 44:10-16 They cannot come near – they miss the blessings of a more special relationship and ministry to the LORD.

For a justified believer, in Christ, in Blood covenant with Him, to continue to **disobey** the LORD, to turn or add any other sacrifice or idol, they will **lose** the blessings of a close relationship and the privilege of special ministry to the Master. They **will lose** their **crown** (Revelation 3:11). And it is possible they could reach a point where the LORD calls them home. That is what happened to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Their idol was money.

The **Lord's people** Israel, **rebelled** and **refused** to enter their promised land.

- Our rebellion and disobedience prevents us from enjoying the full blessings of the Kingdom of God here on earth

Later when they changed their mind and tried to enter, the Lord did not allow them to possess the **land flowing with milk and honey**.

- He did not allow them to repent (2Tim.2:25-26)

The result was a much more **difficult** and **hard life** in the wilderness **without** the privilege of **full blessings** for a **prosperous life** here on earth.

1 Corinthians 10:5 **Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.**

Hebrews 10:39 But **we** (true believers) **are not** of those who **shrink**, (turn or draw) **back** to destruction, but **of those who have faith** to the preserving (saving) of the soul.

- Destruction - the Greek word means – ruin or loss. Such as HIS Blood Redeemed people, Israel, who because of their disobedience were: **laid low in the wilderness . . . some of them were destroyed by the serpents . . . some of them were destroyed by the destroyer.** (1Cor.10: 1-11) But they were still HIS people by Blood Covenant.
- We bring Great difficulty, problems, ruin and loss into our life by shrinking or drawing back and not fully following and obeying the LORD.

He is **NOT** talking about losing Eternal Life but **walking** in obedience and deliverance and the **full and complete blessings and Salvation of God.**

There is a difference between **being JUSTIFIED** and **being SAVED.**

Once Saved always Saved, is NOT necessarily True.

Once JUSTIFIED ALWAYS JUSTIFIED is True.

(Romans 4:7-8; 5:1, 9-10; 8:26-39; 10:9-13)

Example:

Israel in the Promised Land (a picture of the Kingdom of God):
They were REDEEMED and JUSTIFIED by the BLOOD of The LAMB.
But later, because of sin - they were sent to Babylon (out of the Kingdom).
They were still His and JUSTIFIED but THEY WERE NOT SAVED from the results of their actions resulting in oppression and loss of freedom.

The majority of JUSTIFIED people are NOT SAVED in this sense. That is, they are not walking in victory over sin where satan cannot touch them.

Take up HIS CROSS for Eternal Salvation - Justification.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Take up YOUR CROSS for daily Salvation – Victory over sin & satan.

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are BEING saved it is the power of God. 1Cor. 1:18
(being saved – an on-going process and not an accomplished fact)

REMEMBER: Hebrews 9:12 through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, **having obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION**. And Justification.

The issue is: ONLY ONE SACRIFICE IS SATISFYING TO GOD.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS ALONE:

1. FORGIVES SIN – JUSTIFIES, giving eternal life (Romans 3:24)
2. AND CLEANSSES my daily SINS giving intimate fellowship, blessings and privileges. (1 John 1:6-10)

If I turn from the Cross - from the Blood of Jesus Christ - to any other sacrifice for cleansing – or just turn away and neglect it's provision - I have turned away from grace.

I have turned from the only way to obtain forgiveness of sin:

This is what the Galatians did:

(1:6) I marvel that you **are turning away** so soon from Him who **called you** in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel. NKJV "turning away" is the best translation. (Remember: those whom He called, He also justified Romans 8:30)

(3:1) You foolish Galatians, who has ***bewitched you** (*to fascinate by false representation)

(3:2-3) did you **receive the Spirit** by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? (3) Are you so foolish? Having **begun by the Spirit**, are you now **being perfected by the flesh?**

They had "**received the Spirit**" and therefore **Justified**. But turned from **the narrow way** (Mt.7:14) that is, The BLOOD of The Lamb, JESUS CHRIST to some misguided work of self-effort, thinking to obtain the LORD's favor and blessings.

Galatians 5:1-2 It was for **freedom** that Christ set us free (from all self-efforts, and various religious works that are of no effect) **therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject** again to a yoke of slavery. (2) Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive **circumcision** (any work of the flesh) Christ will be **of no benefit to you**. (4) Christ has become of **no effect** to you (literal translation from the Greek) **who attempt to be made righteous by law; you have fallen from grace**. Fallen from the free gift to a self-effort work.

(13) For **you were called to freedom**, brethren; only **do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh**,

Compare: 1 John 1:7 If we **walk in the Light** as He Himself is in the Light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and **the blood of Jesus** His Son **cleanses us** from all sin. (9) **If we confess** our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

- **Believe** – for eternal life (John 3:16).
- **Confess** for daily cleansing to maintain fellowship and blessings.

Because **Sin has been forgiven**, the issue turns to **our daily cleansing** from the sins we commit today. And the issue **is not** our Justification but **Fellowship** with the LORD and one another and the Blessings and privileges that flow out of that fellowship.

This is what is being spoken of here in **Hebrews 10:26**: **For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**

- ❖ We must NEVER go to any other sacrifice.
- ❖ What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
- ❖ What can make me clean again? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
- ❖ Just as I am without one plea, but that Your Blood was shed for me.

My Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness

Amen.