

## Motivated by Judgment

Hebrews 10:26-31

September 15, 2024

**Hebrews 10:26-31** <sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> 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? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." <sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

...There's a couple of Big Clear Things that present themselves in these verses

- A Clear Teaching on Judgment
- There is a particular type of person who is highlighted in this verse among those who will face judgment.

### Might the Heart Need the Motivation of Judgment

"Most of us, I suspect, develop fairly standard ways, one might even say repetitive ways, to appeal to the motivations of our hearers when we preach the gospel. Recently, however, I have wondered if I have erred in this respect—not so much in what I say as in what I never or almost never say. ...For pastoral reasons, we may decide, for instance, that our particular audience, with its endless frustrated and idolatrous relationships and its suspicion of law-categories, needs a heavy emphasis on the generosity and freedom of God's grace: ...Well and good. But the Bible itself depicts Jesus inciting fear in the hearts of people with his insistence that the God with whom they have to deal "can destroy both soul and body in hell" ([Matt 10:28](#)). Again, Jesus openly appeals to motivations that seek eternal rather than temporary and material rewards. ...So while we may, for pastoral reasons, initially choose to appeal to certain motivations and not others, it is surely the path of biblical faithfulness so to teach and preach the Word of God that we awaken new motivations in the hearts and minds of our people as we unpack the complex richness of the glorious gospel of our blessed God. If instead we find ourselves constantly appealing to the same two or three motivations while ignoring others, it is probably because our choices are too much shaped by our perceptions of local cultural needs and too little shaped by the richness of the biblical gospel. Sooner or later, our people may read their Bibles with limiting and even dangerous blinkers that we ourselves have given them." **D.A. Carson**, *Motivations to Appeal to in Our Hearers When We Preach for Conversion*, Themelios (Vol 35, Issue 2)

### Does This Verse Actually Say What it Sounds Like it is Saying?

"Ours is a humanistic age; we think of good mainly in human terms. According to this way of thinking, what is best for the greatest number of human beings is what is best ultimately. People who think this way would, on their own authority, banish the lake of fire of which Scripture so plainly speaks." ..."We may not like the idea of a God who judges. We might prefer a God who only loves, however foolish such a desire is. But the Bible plainly declares what we find in verse 30: "For we know him who said, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay.' And again, 'The Lord will judge his people.'" Verse 27 tells us that those who deliberately reject God have "a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries." **Daniel Doriani**, "Hebrews", Ref. Exp. Comm.

...**Our world is in the throes of Great Moral Confusion!**—Having deputized and elevated the subjective personal preferences of the individual to some kind of "Ultimate Authority", the world is now reeling with an inability to define right & wrong!

?— Is "Love" the Only Characteristic that People need to hear about? ...  
(Consider the depravity described in Scripture)

**Rom 1:21-23** <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**Eph 4:17-19** <sup>17</sup> Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

...This Describes a **WILLFUL REJECTION** of God as He Truly is—and a **Willing Embracing of Darkness—Due to Their HARDNESS of HEART!**

...In light of such a **Deceived & Distorted WILLFULNESS—Might the Human Heart NEED to Feel the FEAR & FURY in Heb 10?!!**

So here is a book that stands against the motivational assumption that the only motivating news is good news. There is both the promise of joy and the warning of pain. ... "We believe that the only good motivation comes from hearing about grace, not judgment. And little by little we let that motivational conviction (as unbiblical as it is) creep into our view of God himself, until we have no categories anymore to understand, let alone love, a God whose wrath is a fury of fire against sinners. But the writer of this book of Hebrews will not be silent about the wrath of God. ... we see it again in today's text - the conviction that it is honest and loving and wise to tell people the truth about the wrath of God. It's at the beginning and middle and end of our text." **John Piper**, "Woe to Those Who Trample the Son of God"

**Heb 10:26-31** <sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but **a fearful expectation of judgment**, and **a fury of fire that will consume** the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> **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**? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, "**Vengeance is mine; I will repay.**" And again, "**The Lord will judge** his people." <sup>31</sup> **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

- "**Expectation of judgment**" ...Do we understand God (and sin and humanity) in such a way that we "EXPECT JUDGMENT"!!? ...Is Judgment a "Hidden, Embarrassing Family Secret"??

**Jn 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Jn 3:18-20...35-36** <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ...<sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

...**v. 19-20** ...There is a "Motivation Problem" here! ...People are NOT coming to Follow Christ—Why?  
...Because on the inside of them, they LOVE the DARKNESS and the HATE the LIGHT! ...ie, they Don't Want to Come to have God Rule Over Them and Determine the Course of Their Lives!!

...**This is no hidden doctrine**

**Rev 6:15-17** *Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"*

**Heb 12:18-24** <sup>18</sup> *For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

"Whatever your view of God, the Creator of the universe and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, if it does not include this, it is a distorted, unrealistic view. God is a God of vengeance, and to fall into his hands is a terrifying thing." **John Piper**, "Woe to Those Who Trample the Son of God"

- **A "fearful expectation"... and a "fury of fire that will consume"** ...There is Nothing "Casual or Indifferent or Informed by Mercy" in this presentation! When accurately considered—this "expectation" awakens a sense of FEAR/DREAD!
- **A "Comparative Outrage" in this verse!** ...v. 28-29 ... "How Much MORE..."

v. 29-31 **"Trampled the Son"** ... **"Profaned the Blood of the covenant"** ...&... **"Outraged the Spirit of grace"**!! ...The Enormity of Offense to the Godhead!! ...It's Supposed to Make Sense to Us that This is OUTRAGEOUS!!

"it is not an outrage for apostates to be damned. The outrage has to do with God sending his own precious Son into this world. He came not to judge us, though certainly we were already guilty. He came to save us. This is the kind of God we are talking about here—the God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." **Daniel Doriani**, "Hebrews", Ref. Exp. Comm.

## The Audience Needing This Motivational Angle

...v. 26, 28-29 ...People who have "received the knowledge of the truth"—and have then "set aside" and "trampled underfoot" the Blood of the Covenant!

**Who is this passage describing?** ...Can this be describing "religious people in the setting of God's redeemed/ ransomed people", but who are not truly regenerate people?

**Heb 3:12-14** *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.*

**1Jn 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.*

**Heb 6:4-9** *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, 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. <sup>7</sup> For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. <sup>8</sup> But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. <sup>9</sup> Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.*

**Heb 10:35-39** <sup>35</sup> *Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. <sup>37</sup> For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.*

**BUT... this is a rather sobering verse—because it means that "within the setting of the church" are people who SEEM like they are Christians—but they are not! ...And when life gets hard and they start feeling the intense "pressure & heat" of ENDURING—They will face this moment to "Set aside" and "trample under foot" the Salvation of God—and seek some other means of salvation in their endurance!**