

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 05.03.15

Opener

At the swimming pool, do you get used to the water by easing in slowly or by jumping in?

Read

Hebrews 10:26-39

Hebrews 3:16-19

Isaiah 26:10-11

Hebrews: 7:25; 8:12; 9:12; 10:10-22 and 11

Engaging with God in a Group

Pete described three people with faith challenges:

- Back turner – appeared to have faith in Jesus but converted to another religion
- Struggling Christian – became believer at some point, suffers from a sin struggle and wonders if they are really saved
- Toe dipper – believes he or she is a good person, attends church, perhaps brings family and even serves, but hasn't trusted Jesus for salvation

Do you personally know people who can be described in these terms?

Read Hebrews 10:26-39. What concerns you about verse 26? "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."

What is the sin for which there is no sacrifice for sins left? To find it, we must take all of Hebrews into account—consider Hebrews 3:16-19. Who is this passage written to?

Are you concerned for someone who might have one of the faith challenges? Or could this passage refer to you? Why or why not?

Pete suggested that this passage refers to the toe dipper because this person continually rejects Christ—as Son of God, as deity, as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Not trusting Christ (faith) means rejection. Also see Isaiah 26:10-11.

Throughout Hebrews the author provides ample evidence for the need of faith. Review Hebrews: 7:25; 8:12; 9:12; 10:10-22 and 11 (all). How does an understanding of the role of faith in the above passages compare with that in Hebrews 10:26? Does this change your thinking about the impact of continual sin? How might your relationships with others be impacted by this truth?

Engaging with God Alone

If you were to fully embrace the truth from this message, how might your life look different? What prevents you from fully trusting Jesus by grace through faith today?

Closing thoughts and prayer

Pray for yourself. Pray for those whom you know with faith challenges.