

A photograph of a person's legs and feet running on a track, overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent filter. The person is wearing athletic shoes and shorts. The background shows a running track with lane markings. The text is centered over the image.

Assurance Through Suffering

Hebrews 10:26-39



Difficulty presents a choice:

- A) “draw back unto perdition” (v. 39a).
- B) “believe to the saving of the soul” (v. 39b).

Which will you do?

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. 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.

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. 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.

1. Warning: Avoid God's
Judgment! (vv. 26-31)

God judges
deliberate sin
(vv. 26-27).

We receive
the truth.

We willfully
sin.

We endure
judgement.

Salvation, sin, & judgement.

- i. Salvation is by grace alone (Eph 2:8-9).
- ii. Grace is not a license to sin (Rom 6:1).
- iii. Christians will endure judgement, but won't lose salvation (1 Cor 3:15).

Serious consequences await the willfully disobedient (vv. 28-31).

- i. Christ is greater than the Law.
- ii. Despising Christ deserves greater punishment than despising the law (cf. Mt 21:33-46).
- iii. Fear God (v. 31).

Death and the afterlife ...

“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt 25:41).

“whoever hears my word and believes ... does not come into judgement” (John 5:24; cf. Rom 8:1).

2. Remember your past so that you can live by faith no matter situation (vv. 32-39).

5 Attributes of the *faithful*.

- i. Endured suffering (v. 32).
- ii. Partnered with those who suffered (v. 33).
- iii. Had compassion on the suffering (v. 34a).
- iv. Joyfully accepted suffering (v. 34b).
- v. Knew of the future inheritance (v. 34c).



4 steps to running a successful race.

- i. Remember the start (vv. 32-33).
- ii. Look towards the finish line (v. 34).
- iii. Endure with confidence (vv. 35-36)
- iv. Trust God's faithfulness (vv. 37-39).

God's faithfulness
endures when our
strength fails (v. 38; *cf*
Hab 2:4; 2 Cor 12:8-10).

Two kinds of people ...

A) “those who shrink back and are destroyed” (v. 39a).

B) “those who have faith and preserve their souls” (v. 39b).

Which are you?