

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon Title: Strong Words to Live and Die By, Hebrews 10:26-39

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**INTRODUCTION:** Let's open with a review of Hebrews:

- Unknown author writing to Jews who were thinking of or being encouraged to abandon the Christian faith
- Hebrews reveals the foreshadowing of the old covenant in light of the work of Christ.
- Until now, everything written has been a review for the Christian Jews. It's all been a foundation for the rest of the book. Today, the scripture builds on that foundation.

There are three points to my sermon today, and they are:

1. Let us be forewarned: God does not play games.
2. Let us all be forthright with ourselves.
3. Let us be forward-thinking about Christ's work in the world.

**First, LET US BE FOREWARNED: GOD DOES NOT PLAY GAMES.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 10:26-31<sup>26</sup> *If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,*<sup>27</sup> *but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.*<sup>28</sup> *Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.*<sup>29</sup> *How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*<sup>30</sup> *For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay" and again, "The Lord will judge his people."*<sup>31</sup> *It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

**EXPLANATION:** In the Old Testament, there was no sacrifice for willful sins. Anyone who committed a willful sin was put to death.

According to Exodus—

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 21:12-14 <sup>12</sup> “*Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death. <sup>13</sup> However, if it is not done intentionally, but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate. <sup>14</sup> But if anyone schemes and kills someone deliberately, that person is to be taken from my altar and put to death.*”

**SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 15:27-31 <sup>27</sup> “*But if just one person sins unintentionally, that person must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. <sup>28</sup> The priest is to make atonement before the LORD for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when atonement has been made, that person will be forgiven. <sup>29</sup> One and the same law applies to everyone who sins unintentionally, whether a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you.*”

<sup>30</sup> “*But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or foreigner, blasphemes the LORD and must be cut off from the people of Israel. <sup>31</sup> Because they have despised the LORD’s word and broken his commands, they must surely be cut off; their guilt remains on them.*”

**BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION:** Now, think about King David. He premeditated having an adulterous affair with Bathsheba. He premeditated murder for her husband by having troops withdraw from him in battle. According to the Law, David should have been put to death, but he cried to God for mercy. The only sacrifice David could bring before God was a broken heart, pleading for mercy.

In Psalm 51 David says:

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 51:14-17 <sup>14</sup> *Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

**APPLICATION:** So, about willful sinning, let’s avoid it. Let us repent and ask for God’s mercy. The Old Testament sacrifices did not cover willful sins, but many

scriptures tell us the sacrifice of Jesus covers all sin. No one here should be smug in his or her own salvation, but they should be grateful for it.

I heard someone say this week, “If you have a secret sin and no one knows about it but you, people do know something is not right because you will behave differently around people in your hopes that they will not find out.”

**SCRIPTURE:** King David said in I Chronicles 21:13 “...*Let me now fall into the hands of the Lord; for very great are his mercies...*” (KJV)

## **Second, LET US ALL BE FORTHRIGHT WITH OURSELVES.**

Now, about those who have the knowledge of the truth and reject it, let me share with you information on a new church which is in Nashville. It’s called the Sunday Assembly, and it is composed of atheists. You may have seen the article in *The Tennessean*. Here’s what they say about themselves:

Our mission, Sunday Assembly Nashville, is a godless congregation that celebrates life. Assemblies are free to attend, and everyone is welcome. The Sunday Assembly—

1. Is 100% celebration of life. We are born from nothing and go to nothing. Let’s enjoy it together.
2. Has no doctrine. We have no set texts so we can make use of wisdom from all sources.
3. Has no deity. We don’t do supernatural, but we also won’t tell you you’re wrong if you do.

This movement was launched by two comedians in London a little over a year ago and has now spread to 37 congregations. They have no mention of God because they do not believe in God. They do not use the Bible because they do not believe the Bible is the word of God. They gather for songs, but they are not songs of faith. They listen to a speech, which sounds kind of like a sermon but does not speak of God in any way. The assemblies are known for being nice, accepting of all people (I guess, unless a person wants to talk about God), and they are known for community involvement.

Honestly, I think the Sunday Assembly will go over pretty well in Nashville because we have so many people who have a form of godliness but deny its power,

according to 2 Timothy 3:5. We have so many people in Nashville who grew up in church, but have no connection whatsoever with the church. And, they miss Sunday meetings. They can now meet and satisfy their longing for meetings.

Here's why I told you about the Sunday Assembly godless church: Because there are two types of people who will go there—those who have really never heard the Gospel and those who have. If they've never heard it, that's one thing, but if they have heard the truth and have rejected it, God will deal with them a different way.

The commentator Arthur Pink talks about the four stages of people who taste but do not partake:

1. Those who look back, like Lot's wife. Although she outwardly left Sodom, her heart was still there.
2. Next, there is the drawing back. The requirements of Christ are too much to appeal to the heart.
3. Then there is the turning back. The path of godliness is too narrow to suit the lusting's of the flesh.
4. There is the falling back, which is fatal. Isaiah 28:13 says that they might go back and fall backward, and be broken.

Here's a review:

- Let us be forewarned: God is not playing games.
- Let us be forthright with ourselves.
- And last—

### **Third, LET US BE FORWARD-THINKING ABOUT CHRIST'S WORK IN THE WORLD.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 10:32-39 <sup>32</sup>*Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.* <sup>33</sup>*Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.* <sup>34</sup>*You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.* <sup>35</sup>*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.*

<sup>36</sup> *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.* <sup>37</sup> *For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.”*

<sup>38</sup> *And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”*

<sup>39</sup> *But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.*

Let us abandon any backward thinking about Christ. The early Jews were known for looking back. Let's learn from them and not be that way.

- Enduring persecution is forward-thinking.
- Being confident in Christ is forward-thinking.
- Looking forward to the return of Christ is forward-thinking.
- Living a life of faith is forward-thinking.
- Remaining faithful until the end is forward-thinking.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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