

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark scene of a stormy sea. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, and several bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, striking down towards the water. The sea itself is dark and turbulent, with white-capped waves visible in the foreground. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

HEBREWS

PERSEVERANCE AND GODLINESS

8 steps of the “Path”

1. Faith
2. Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. **Perseverance**
6. **Godliness**
7. Brotherly affection
8. Unselfish love

Perseverance is when we choose to trust God in every test, temptation, and trial

Godliness is when we work to align our character, ethics, worldview, and thought patterns with Christ

Be careful!

① neglect → drift →

② unbelief / disobedience →
fall away / forsake (apostasy)

③ apathy → rejection of Jesus
and disqualification or death

“Because. . .” (summary)

- Believers have confident access to God through Jesus’ death and resurrection (vs 19–20)
- Jesus is our great high priest, who has done and is doing all these great things for us (vs 21)

“...let us...” (commands)

1. “draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings” (vs 22)
2. “hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess” (vs 23)
3. “take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works” (vs 24)



Hebrews 10:26–27

- If you're going to live like an unbeliever, why would you expect God to not respond to that?
- What is “the truth”? Everything he has taught about who Jesus is, what he did, and what he is doing right now as our high priest.

Hebrews 10:26–27

- To “deliberately keep on sinning” is to keep walking away from Jesus, not holding fast to our faith, not persevering in obedience
- If we turn from Jesus and go back into Satan’s world, how can God not punish us for that?

Hebrews 10:28–29

- The judgment for rejecting the law of Moses was physical death, regardless of the person's spiritual condition. There was no sacrifice available for willful, deliberate sin (Numbers 15:30–31). Death was the only option.
- If that was true for those under the law of Moses, how much more should that be true for those who have come to Jesus then turned away from him?



Every person will stand before God and be judged on two issues:

1. Our response in faith to God's revelation
2. Our living out of God's law

The first determines our state

The second determines our status

Hebrews 10:30–31

- Again, even in the quotes from Deuteronomy, God is judging “his people.” We are not exempt.
- This should help us understand that “the fear of the LORD” is not always just reverence or respect. Those who walk away from him have every reason to fear him and the punishment that he must give.

Evaluation question

Is it better to fall under the judgment of people around us in this life or under the judgment of God in the next?

Hebrews 10:32–34

- Their connection to the Christian faith was affecting their daily lives.
- They thought they were willing to trade in their “better and lasting possession” for temporary, earthly possessions and relationships.
- They were honestly questioning if Christianity was worth what it was costing them. But in doing so they forgot what it really cost—Jesus’ life.

Hebrews 10:35–36

- Chapter 11 will look at past heroes who didn't fall away, but the writer said to look at our own pasts first.
- Choosing to turn away from Jesus is called throwing away one's confidence. It's basically saying, "I can't trust God anymore."
- God's promise is worth my perseverance

Hebrews 10:37–39

- Jesus will return as promised and right on time and that those who remain faithful will be rewarded, while the unfaithful will face God's disappointment

Hebrews 10:37–39

- “shrink back” refers to a state of timidity
- “perish” can mean eternal destruction, waste, or ruin
- “preserve” can mean security or some kind of gain or possession
- “soul” means the spiritual part of a person every time in Hebrews

Hebrews 10:39

- It can mean *“shrink back to eternal destruction... have faith and preserve their souls.”*
- It can also mean *“live as the timid resulting in a wasted life... live from faith resulting in preservation and possession of our spiritual lives.”*

Question

*Can we — will we — find total sufficiency
in Christ alone or will we waste our lives
and lose everything he designed us for?*

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