**Sermon Title: The Enemies of Courage, Part 5**

 **The Enemy Known as Deliberate Sin**

**Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:26-31**

**Sermon Purpose: To warn the hearer of the relevant danger of apostasy.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 aspects of the deliberate sin of apostasy.**

**Introduction:** What is the deliberate sin? Rejection of Jesus Christ. Apostasy is an intentional falling away, a withdrawal, or defection. Apostasy is the act of rejecting the gospel and the person and work of Jesus Christ, for which there is no forgiveness or sacrifice sufficient for.

 Apostasy is not new, nor is God’s attitude toward it. It is the most serious of all sins, because it is the most deliberate and willful form of unbelief. It is not a sin of ignorance, but of purposely rejecting known truth!

Causes of apostasy:

1. Persecution

2. False Teachers

3 Temptation

4. Neglect

5. Clinging to the World

6. Forsaking Christian Fellowship

**I. The premise of the deliberate sin of apostasy. Vv.26-27**

**II. The principle of the deliberate sin of apostasy. V.28**

**III. The problem of the deliberate sin of apostasy. V.29**

**IV. The proclamation of the deliberate sin of apostasy. Vv.30-31**

**I. The premise of the deliberate sin of apostasy. Vv.26-27**

 Christian’s who claim to be sinless are deceiving themselves (**1 John 1:8**) and those who commit a sin should not fear that they are outside God’s grace.

 **1 John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

 The willful sin here is abandoning one’s confession altogether of faith in Jesus Christ alone. The seriousness of this premise is indicated by the rejection of the truth, with suborn intention behind it and the measure of knowledge or enlightenment they refuse to submit to. (Saul)

 **1 Timothy 4:1-2** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2** speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

 **Deuteronomy 13:13** `Corrupt men have gone out from among you and enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods "'-- which you have not known—

 **1 Samuel 15:11** "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul *as* king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

 **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

 Epignosis, is the word for knowledge in verse 26, denotes full knowledge, understanding, and discernment.

 **2 Timothy 2:12-13** If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us. **13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

 A. The first result of apostasy, no longer is there a sufficient sacrifice for sin. V.26

 B. The second result of apostasy, rejection of Jesus Christ brings greater judgment. V.27

**II. The principle of the deliberate sin of apostasy. V.28**

 There are those who turned from God to idols.

 **Deuteronomy 17:2-7** "If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant, **3** "who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, **4** "and it is told you, and you hear *of it*, then you shall inquire diligently. And if *it is* indeed true *and* certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, **5** "then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones. **6** "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. **7** "The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

 Far from being more tolerant of sin today, God is less tolerant, because men have much more light.

 **Acts 17:30-31** "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, **31** "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

 1. The light of the **Scriptures**.

 2. The light of the Apostles and Prophets.

 3. The light of the **Holy** **Spirit**.

 4. The light of the Hall of Fame of **Witnesses**.

 5. The light of miraculous signs and wonders.

 6. The light of the inner witness and creation.

**III. The problem of the deliberate sin of apostasy. V.29**

 This is an argument from the Mosaic law as the lesser, to the gospel as the greater, is found in Hebrews 2:2-3.

 **Hebrews 2:2-3** For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, **3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

 If blatant violation of the law given through Moses, warranted the punishment of death, then do we suppose the rejection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would deserve less punishment?

 Rejection of more light brings a severer judgment!

 A. Apostates reject the Father.

 **Matthew 3:17** And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

 B. Apostates reject the Son of God

 **Philippians 2:9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

 **John 10:30** "I and *My* Father are one."

 C. Apostates reject the Holy Spirit.

 **John 16:8-11** "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: **9** "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; **10** "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; **11** "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

 D. Apostates reject the Word of God.

 E. Apostates reject the human witnesses.

 Trampled – means to have scorned, to have counted as worthless.

 **Luke 12:47-48** "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. **48** "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

**IV. The proclamation of the deliberate sin of apostasy. Vv.30-31**

 God is long-suffering and a Savior, He is patient and loving and desires for all men to repent, so they won’t perish.

 **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

 But for those who reject the grace and gift of God, there is nothing and no one left that God can offer or do to save them. Only judgment remains!

 **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

 **Matthew 13:38-42** "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*. **39** "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. **40** "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. **41** "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, **42** "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

 **Matthew 13:49-50** "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, **50** "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."