

HOW TO PREVENT APOSTASY?

A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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By

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HOW TO PREVENT APOSTASY? Shadrack Oppong

TEXT: Hebrews 2:1-10

THESIS: To show the brethren how to prevent drifting away from God.

INTRODUCTION

1. One important thing any boxer needs to do while in the ring is to ensure that he stands and keeps standing throughout.
2. This is important because if he is on the floor, it is game over for him and a win for the opponent (enemy)
3. The apostle Paul described our Christian journey as a boxing (fight) that demands that we stand (2 Cor. 9:26; 2 Tim. 4:7; Eph. 6:13-14).
4. The Christian can however fall from standing and needs to take heed lest he falls (1 Cor. 10:12).
5. The writer of the book of Hebrews admonishes the Christian to prevent drifting and falling away from the faith.
6. From the admonitions of the Hebrews writer, we shall consider three main points.
 - I. Do Not Neglect the Message from the Son.
 - II. Do Not Withdraw from God.
 - III. Do Not Forsake the Assembly of the brethren.

DISCUSSION:

- I. DO NOT NEGLECT THE MESSAGE FROM THE SON.
 - A. Because of the one through whom God has spoken.
 1. He is the Son of God (Heb. 1:1-2).
 2. He is superior to the Prophet as the Son (Heb. 1:1-3).
 3. He is superior to the Angels (Heb. 1:4-7; 1:13,14).
 4. He is God, the creator of all things (Heb. 1:8-12).
 5. Therefore, we ought to give more earnest heed to what He says (Heb. 2:1-4).

B. Because of what happened to those who rejected what God spoke through Angels.

1. God gave the first covenant and laws to Moses through angels (Heb. 2:2).
2. Those who rejected and did not believe suffered various punishments (1 Cor. 10:10).
3. They did not enter His rest because of unbelief (Heb. 4:2-6, 11).
4. They did not escape the punishment so how shall we escape if we neglect this salvation which is greater than theirs. (Heb. 2:3).
5. The punishment for those who will reject the Son is sorer (Heb. 10:29).

C. Because apostasy is possible and dangerous.

1. It is possible to drift away from the salvation we have received (Heb. 2:3).
2. We can depart from God and lose what we have worked for (Heb. 3:12-14; 2 John 8).
3. It is possible for a child of God to fall to sin and be lost (Heb. 10:26-27).
4. We can drift away such that it becomes impossible to come unto repentance again (Heb. 6:4-8).

II. DO NOT WITHDRAW FROM GOD.

A. Hold fast to God and do not let go of Him.

1. Drifting from God comes slowing unnoticed.
2. We can only hold fast to something that we are close to.
3. We must be diligent to seek Him and constantly pay attention (Heb. 2:1; 2 Pet. 1:4-8).
4. Live intentionally as a Christian and work out your salvation (Phil. 2:12).
5. Search the scriptures daily like the Bereans (Acts 17:11).

B. Submit to God and draw near.

1. We must humble ourselves and the Lord will lift us up (James 4:6,10).

2. We must surrender our wills to God and be obedient to Him (Heb. 5:9, Jam. 4:7)
3. We must draw near to God for that will make Him draw near to us (Heb. 10:19-22; Jam. 4:8).
4. We need to understand that beside Christ there is no sacrifice for sin therefore it is time to clean and purify our hearts (Heb. 10:26, Jam. 4:7)
5. There two best ways to draw near to God.
 - a. Talk to God regularly by praying (1 Thess. 5:17-23, Phil 4:6-7).
 - b. Let God talk to you regularly by studying His word (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17; Psa. 1:1-6).

C. Seek Him in faith and He will reward you.

1. It is impossible to please the Lord without faith (Heb. 11:6).
2. We need to imitate the cloud of witnesses who exemplified their faith by their works (Heb. 11:4-38; 12:1-3).
3. We must show clear confidence and conviction in God (Heb. 3:14; 4:14-16; 11:1-3).
4. Accept His chastisement for that is an assurance that we are His (Heb. 12:5-11).

III. DO NOT FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLY THE BRETHREN.

A. Assemble to stir up love and good works.

1. We come together to edify and exhort one another (Heb. 10:25).
2. We assemble to worship God and fellowship with the brethren (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 11:17-23; Acts 20:7).
3. We must obey this command which also comes from the Son.
 - a. To forsake is to abandon, to quit.
 - b. To stop meeting with brethren is to disobey the Lord.
4. We are called to fellowship and not to be isolated from the community of God's people.

B. Forsaking the assembly is a lack of respect for the Godhead.

1. Where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, He is present (Mat. 18:20)
2. When gather, there is the presence of our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit (Heb. 12:22-24).
3. Therefore, to forsake the gathering or come late is a sign of disrespect for God.

C. Forsaking the assembly is a violation of the two greatest commandments.

1. There two greatest commandments were stated by Christ (Mark 12:30-31)
 - a. The first is to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength.
 - b. The second is to your neighbor as yourself.
2. Forsaking the assembly means we love some other things other than God and our neighbors.
3. We become rude toward God and the brethren however Love is not rude (1 Cor. 13:5).
4. We disregard the presence of the Godhead and keep the brethren waiting only not to show up.
5. Will that fulfill the golden rule; do unto others as you want others to do unto you? (Mat. 7:12).

CONCLUSION

1. It is possible for a child of God to so sin as to be lost.
2. The drifting may be elusive, but often by the time you realize it, it is too late!
3. For that reason, we must give "the more earnest heed" to the things we hear.
4. We are to be more earnest than those who heard the word of God spoken through angels (i.e., the Israelites).
5. We must submit to God and draw near to Him.
6. We need to be connected with God and the brethren by assembling regularly.
7. If you are a visitor, you can prevent going to eternal punishment by following these steps to salvation.
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent from your sins (Acts 2:38).
 - c. Confess Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:16).