
Hebrews 10:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

INTRODUCTION

As we read through the Old Testament we are often amazed and shocked at the number of times the Israelites turned their back on God, even after the Father has shown them His love and mercy. After the Israelites are punished and repent, it doesn't take long for them to turn back to their sinful ways. We often think that think we could never act like them. However, it doesn't take a very deep self-examination to see that we act exactly the same way! The only difference is our lives aren't recorded in a book as the lives of the Israelites are. I wonder how much more obedient we would be if we knew our lives would be recorded in a best seller?

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
³ all ate the same spiritual food,
⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.
⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Old Testament References

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (Ex. 13:21-22 & Ex. 14)
³ all ate the same spiritual food, (Ex. 16)
⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (Ex. 17:1-7)
⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.
⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. (Num. 14:26-35 & Deut. 32:48-52)

The first four verses show that the Old Testament account of the spiritual lives of the Israelites is more than just a story, but shows us very distinct attributes of God. God is quick to bless us, but will also bring us to judgement for repentance when we take advantage of His loving kindness by disobeying Him, doubting Him, or when we attribute our blessings to some other entity (Pastor, church, faith, or self-sacrifice). The accounts described by Paul in our text, doesn't tell us all that God had done to bless His people. However, there is enough here to remind us that He is faithful even when we are unfaithful, unkind, unforgiving, and ungrateful.

In verse five, it is obvious that God's patience during our backsliding should not be mistaken for acceptance. If someone who is called by His name does not humble him or herself and pray and seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways their sins will not be forgiven and their land will not be healed. (II Chron. 7:14)

Just as parents give consequences to their children who do not obey, God, as our heavenly Father, will discipline us for our disobedience.

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

⁶ *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

He reassures us that He loves us even when He has to get after us and that He chastens us because He loves us. This is an example of how we're to treat our own children. While the Bible is very specific about discipline (Prov. 22:15, Prov. 23:13-14, Prov. 29:15), Hebrews 12: 5 and 6 instructs us to let our children know that we still love them even when we have to discipline them.

Verse six of our text tells us that the previous verses are a perfect example of what not to do in our walk with the Savior. Once Christ is accepted as our Lord and Savior, our lives cannot be lived as though we are still dead in our sin. There are places we should not go anymore. There are people that we should not associate with anymore. There are things we should not say or dwell on anymore. There are web sites we shouldn't search anymore! How should we conduct ourselves as children of God? What do the scriptures say about the subject? Perhaps the following verses can help us in our quest to live for Christ and not for satisfying our flesh.

Psalms 1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Micah 6:8, Matt. 22:37-39, Gal. 5:16