

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD (Part 1)

Request: "After studying Heb.10:26, it seems to suggest that a person with full knowledge (epignosis) of the gospel and then rejects it can lose his salvation. Could you explain why this is, or is not, true?"

In this lesson, I will assume this request is in reference to a believer and not an unbeliever; since the Book of Hebrew was written to primarily Jewish believers (Hebrews).

It will be important to me to explain it in a way that could replace Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) fears and doubts regarding losing salvation. This will require several lessons.

I can teach you the word of God regarding this subject, but the challenge will be whether you are willing to replace your old beliefs with new ones regarding losing your salvation.

Our lesson title comes from a 4th warning in Heb.10:35-36: "Therefore, do not thrown away (me apoballo/ a.a.subj.2pl) your confidence (ten parrhesia/ asf) (Heb.3:6; 4:16; 10:19 and 35), which (hostis/ nsf) [relative pronoun/ why?] [Answer: because your faith confidence] has a great reward (megas misthapodosia/ asf). For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

"It is a great challenge to tell suffering believers, who have lost all but life itself, under attack of a godless world, to hold on to their faith." (Renaissance NT, vol.16, pg.360)

This lesson will cover an introduction to the Book of Hebrews and list the five warnings against apostate reversionism and the danger of throwing away your confidence of faith in God's will.

1. We will examine the author, date, recipients, primary purpose, and outline of Book of Hebrews.

Before the Reformation, theologians believed Paul was the **author** of the book of Hebrews. (400-1600 AD). After the Reformation, most do not ascribe an author since one is not mentioned in the Book (Heb. 13:22-25).

- **Date:** Most ascribe to it being written between 64-68AD, before the 5th cycle of divine discipline to Israel by Rome (70AD). (Lev.26; Deut.28) The Levitical system is mentioned in the present tense (Heb.5:1-5; 7:23, 27-28; 8:1-5).
- **Recipients** were Jewish believers of first century AD who were under great persecution by both Jewish and Roman courts as well as from Judaizers inside the Christian church in Jerusalem (Acts 7:51-58; 8:1-5; 9:1-5) (Acts 15:1, 5, 11; Gal.1:6-8;2:12; 2:16-21).
- **Primary purpose** of Book was to show the superiority of Jesus Christ over Mosaic Law and Levitical system and OC (2:4; 3:3; 7:17-12; 8:6, 13; 10:1, 4-10).

The NASB introduction to Book of Hebrews gives a simple three point homiletical **outline**.

- Chs. 1-4 Superiority of Person of Jesus Christ.
- Chs. 5-19 Superiority of Priesthood of Jesus Christ.
- Chs. 11-13 Superiority of Power of Jesus Christ.

2. We will list the five warnings given against apostate reversionism listed in Book.

The underlying theme of these five warnings is UNBELIEF:

(Heb.3:12-13) **“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any of you an evil (poneros) (Eph.6:16; Matt.4:1-11; 2 Cor.11:3), unbelieving (apistia) (Heb.11:1, 6) heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”**

- (Heb.2:1-4)
 - _____
- (Heb.3:7-4:13)
 - _____
- (Heb.5:11-6:12)
 - _____
- (Heb.10:19-39)
 - Don't throw away your confidence of faith in the will of God (19, 35-36; Rom.10:17)
- (Heb.12:14-29)
 - _____

The Sin unto Death is the key doctrine to understanding these five warnings. The primary purpose of these 5 warnings is not to remove the Church Age Believer (CAB) from salvation but to remove the CAB from apostate reversionism.

3. The writer of Hebrews makes an issue of the danger of throwing away your confidence of faith in God's will (Heb.10:19, 35).

“In Hebrews, parrhesia plays a relatively important part.” (TD of NT, vol.5, pg.884)

The Greek word used for confidence is **parrhesia**. This word was popular in Attic Greek democracy. “At the height of Greek democracy the full citizen alone had the right to say anything publicly in the ekklesia.” (pg.872)

“For this reason there is no higher possession than parrhesia and no greater loss that to lose it.” (pg.872)

This Greek word was used this way in the Jesus public ministry of Jesus (John 7:13, 25-31; 18:20). However it changed after the resurrection of Jesus and advent ministry of indwelling Holy Spirit. “The parrhesia of Jesus is thus given with the presence of the risen Lord in the Spirit.” (Pg.881)

“This parrhesia is given with the blood of Jesus (Heb.10:19) and is grounded in His high-priestly way (Heb.4:14). The saving work of Jesus, which penetrates all the heavens, has created parrhesia and made its fulfilment possible.” (pg.884)

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE OF FAITH IN GOD'S WILL.