

## Hebrews 10:26-31: "Grace-Insulting Sin"

Intro: All sin offends the holiness of God and constitutes transgression of His law. Everyone is such a sinner and thus worthy of death. However, such sinners can all be redeemed and forgiven from all such transgressions; yet, there is one particular sin for which no further forgiveness can be offered. Such sin renders sinners beyond the scope of God's salvation and certain to be engulfed by God's wrath.

- 1) The penalty of death under the Mosaic covenant applied to various forms of transgression of the Decalogue, especially to those transgressions that either assumed rejection of God's covenant with Israel and/or threatened Israel's integrity as a separate nation/people before God. Capital punishment then rooted out sinners who could undermine the integrity of Israel as God's holy and special people. Yet, it also offered forgiveness and restoration in most other cases where the national covenant was still affirmed and preserved.
- 2) The death penalty for Israel, notwithstanding their temporal civic and spiritual application in the theocracy, provides a typological redemptive application for the church today. It was a tutorial unto grace highlighting the death/damnation that those who reject Christ as offered in the grace covenant will incur, as well as excommunication for those that live in such a way as challenges the holy integrity and vocation of the church with a view to repentance.
- 3) While the death/damnation sentence applies to all and any violation of the law since the fall, the grace promise in Christ provides the only way of escape from the righteous indignation and judgment of God's wrath. To reject such a promise of grace in light of the knowledge of Christ is to sin beyond and outside of the grace of God with an insult of ultimate significance:
  - a. Where else can atonement for sins be found for forgiveness and righteousness?
  - b. Back to the Mosaic sacrifices? To what end once fulfilled in Christ?
  - c. Back to judgment under the Decalogue? Guilty on all counts
  - d. Back to the Nation of Israel? Judged and accursed forsaking covenant
  - e. Back to repentance unto God? Not possible but only judgment w/o Christ
  - f. Back unto Adam and works covenant? Hiding from God's holy vengeance as enemy
  - g. To sin against the law/Moses deserves death, to sin against grace/Christ seals it
- 4) The sin of the Hebrews against grace is the ultimate sin unto death for which there is NO forgiveness; it is ultimate death by God's irrevocable and avenging wrath for those who abandon justification through faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone. It is the sin unto death of those that turn/reject the faith thus rendering any further claim to illumination, repentance, forgiveness, righteousness, and fellowship outside of Christ null/impossible.
- 5) All Christians still sin but NOT unto death; believers don't sin in willful rejection of Christ. They still sin but the root of faith is the power of God to keep them unto salvation. The root of faith holds them in Christ sheltered and secured in the justifying verdict of God's grace in Christ. There is an iniquity they will not commit ever, namely, abandoning Christ!

