

v26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins. v27 There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. v28 Anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. v29 Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God and have treated the blood of the covenant as if it were common and unholy. Such people have insulted and enraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people. v30 For we know the one who said, "I will take vengeance. I will repay those who deserve it." He also said, "The Lord will judge his own people." v31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. v32 Don't ever forget those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. v33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. v34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity. v35 Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! v36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. v37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. v38 And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away." v39 But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation. Hebrews 10:26-39

Today let me remind you again of all that we have learned about Jesus in the book thus far. As we have studied this book of Hebrews, we have discovered a number of great truths about the work of Jesus. Our overall theme has been: **IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS** and we have learned this as we have worked our way through the book:

1. KNOWING GOD IS POSSIBLE
2. JESUS IS LORD IN THE HEAVENLIES
3. JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS
4. JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRULY SAY 'I AM THE GREATEST'
5. TEN REASONS WHY WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD
6. WHY GOD'S PROMISES ALWAYS COME TRUE IN JESUS
7. WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED
8. THE SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT INTRODUCED BY JESUS
9. THE POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS
10. WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED
11. ONLY JESUS CAN MAKE YOU HOLY

The key to understanding the verses we read today is in VERSE 26. I am referring to that part which says: **WHAT HAPPENS (my words) "after we have received a full knowledge of the truth?"**

**I.O.W., NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT'S NEXT?**

Let me illustrate it this way:

Imagine someone is dying right in front of you, with no way of saving them and they call you over to them to share secret with you. As you bend over to hear fading voice,

they say: “I have hidden R50 at the back of my cupboard, if you find it you can have it.” How would you respond? Probably you would think, ‘OK, if I find it, cool, if I don’t, no great loss.’

Now, imagine if the same person said: “I have hidden a key at the back of my cupboard, if you find it you can have it. It unlocks a safety-deposit box at my bank that contains my will which says that the first person to find my will, will inherit my estate worth a life changing R100 million rand”.

## **HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND NOW?**

The point of these verses is: “**YOU HAVE RECEIVED LIFE CHANGING INFORMATION, WHAT NOW?**”

I have given the following title to this message.

## **TWO COMPELLING REASONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS**

**THE FIRST COMPELLING REASON TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS**

### **1. THERE IS NO OTHER SOLUTION TO OUR SIN PROBLEM. v26-31**

- 1.1 **Because there is no other solution to our sin problem, THERE IS NO EXCUSE IF WE KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS**  
*v26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins. v27 There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. v28 Anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses*

Fortunately, the verse says “*if we deliberately continue sinning*” and not “*if we sin*”, for we all fail at some point after receiving Christ.

HOWEVER,

There are many who claim the title ‘Christian’, yet live as pagans. There is no room for hypocrites in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Jesus told this story to illustrate what I am saying in:

***Matthew 7:15-23*** "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. v16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? v17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. v18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. v19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. v20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. v21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. v22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your

***name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' v23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'***

1.2 **Because there is no other solution to our sin problem, THERE IS NO EXCUSE IF WE INSULT THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS**

*v29 Think how much more terrible the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God and have treated the blood of the covenant as if it were common and unholy. Such people have insulted and enraged the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to his people.*

**1. IF WE INSULT THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS, WE INSULT THE LIFE OF JESUS**

There are many things you may reject about Jesus, BUT surely, you cannot reject the LIFE OF JESUS. Of all the great religious leaders that ever lived, only Jesus truly backed up his teaching, by his life. All others had/have some faults, yet Jesus is the only one to be claimed to be without sin, and who claimed to be God.

**2. IF WE INSULT THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS, WE INSULT THE CROSS**

There are few things more important to Christianity than the cross. The Apostle Paul says this in:

*1 Corinthians 15:13-14 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. v14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

THE CROSS IS THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE BIBLE

**3. IF WE INSULT THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS, WE INSULT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Bible only ever mentions ONE SIN that cannot be forgiven. ACCORDING TO **Mark 3:29** "*whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin.*"

1.3 **Because there is no other solution to our sin problem, THERE IS NO EXCUSE IF WE INSULT THE ONE WHO SENT JESUS**

*v30 For we know the one who said, "I will take vengeance. I will repay those who deserve it." He also said, "The Lord will judge his own people." v31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

What the writer of the book of Hebrews is saying in these two verses is: "YOU MAY REJECT JESUS, BUT DON'T REJECT THE ONE WHO SPOKE ABOUT AND SEND JESUS TO YOU!!!"

**IF THE FIRST COMPELLING REASON TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS THAT THERE IS NO OTHER SOLUTION TO OUR SIN PROBLEM.**

**THE SECOND COMPELLING REASON TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS IS**

## **2. THE SPARK YOU FELT IN YOU HEART “WHEN YOU FIRST LOVED JESUS.”**

There are a number of reasons why relationships fail. One of the easiest to remedy is “**WHEN A RELATIONSHIP FAILS BECAUSE OF COMPLACENCY**” Many relationships fail because we get lazy and cease to grow in our love for each other. **THE SAME IS TRUE FOR BELIEVERS**

One of the accusations in the Book of Revelation against the Church at Ephesus in **Revelation 2:3-4** *You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. v4 Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love.***

In these verses the writer of the Book of Hebrews is encouraging them to focus on the Superiority of Jesus by reminding them about the JESUS they first encountered.

### **2.1. WHEN YOU “FIRST LOVED JESUS’ YOU SPENT TIME TO GET TO KNOW HIM.**

*v32 Don't ever forget those early days **when you first learned about Christ.***

I am amazed at how many people think that they know all they need to know about Jesus. I have been studying the bible seriously now for more than 40 years, and I daily discover new truths about Jesus.

I am grateful for many who have told me how much they have enjoyed reading the devotions I have prepared on a daily basis. Do you know that it sometimes takes me as much time to prepare a devotion of 100-200 words as it takes me to prepare a whole sermon. The truth is, I sometimes spend hours reading, just to capture one crucial thought. I first started writing these devotions to encourage you, now I write them because I have been blessed, and I want you to be blessed as well.

### **2.2. WHEN YOU “FIRST LOVED JESUS’ YOU WERE WILLING TO BE PERSECUTED FOR HIM.**

*v32 .... Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. v33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. v34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail. When all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew you had better things waiting for you in eternity.*

I will never forget a story I heard many years ago, when Communism was still in power behind what was known as “The Iron Curtain.” A persecuted believer heard that Western believers were praying for them, that they would remain faithful to Christ during all the persecution. She wrote back and said, “It is us who pray for you, for how do you remain faithful when having faith is so easy.” **HOW TRUE THIS IS!!**

Just think of the violence in KZN this last week. People are more passionate about someone who holds the Courts in Contempt than the Courts who uphold the Laws. There is more passion for JACOB than JESUS.

### **2.3. WHEN YOU “FIRST LOVED JESUS’ YOU WERE FULLY CONFIDENT IN JESUS.**

*v35 Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you!*

I wonder how many believers have abandoned their faith in Jesus because something happened to shake their faith in him. For some it may be a personal tragedy. For some it may be a failing in the church. I am sad to say, for many it is most likely just the allure of sin.

Friends, let me say again, for me personally, I have been a student of religion for many years, and I am not more convinced than ever that Jesus is who he said he was. All I can do is repeat the words of PETER in

*John 6:68-69 "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. v69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."*

### **2.4. WHEN YOU “FIRST LOVED JESUS” YOU KNEW HE IS COMING BACK AGAIN.**

*v36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. v37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay.*

Many respond to Jesus because of the reality of the SECOND COMING. In the early church they thought Jesus would return in their lifetime, so when Jesus did not come as soon as they thought, they began to abandon the faith.

HOWEVER, JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.

I read a great sign reflecting on Jesus’s promise in John 14 that he was going to prepare a place for us believers. It was written in the style of a notice you put in a shop door when you need to leave for a while. It said

**“PLEASE WAIT”**

**“GONE TO DAD’S HOUSE  
TO PREPARE A ROOM FOR  
WHEN YOU COME TO VISIT”**

**“SEE YOU SOON!!!”**

## **CONCLUSION**

### **SO WE HAVE SEEN TWO COMPELLING REASONS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS**

**THERE IS NO OTHER SOLUTION TO OUR SIN PROBLEM.  
THE SPARK YOU FELT IN YOU HEART “WHEN YOU FIRST LOVED  
JESUS.”**

**So, HOW MUST WE RESPOND**

*v38 And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away." v39 But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation.*