

“Don’t Shrink Back!”

Hebrews 10:26-39

July 7, 2024

I. What is “sinning deliberately”?

- A. “Sinning deliberately” does *not* mean sinning on purpose.
- B. “Sinning deliberately” involves the complete rejection of the Christian faith by someone who once professed to believe.

- 1. The analogous Old Testament example referenced in 10:28 shows us this.

² “If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by transgressing His covenant, ³ and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded, ⁴ and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, ⁵ then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death. ⁶ “On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

- 2. The wording of 10:29 establishes the same, as does the phrase “shrinks back” in 10:39.
- 3. When one rejects the cross of Christ, there truly remains no other sacrifice for one’s sin.

- C. “Sinning deliberately” receives a more severe judgment.

- 1. While true that God’s elect can never be lost...

***Philippians 1:6** - And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*



***John 6:40** - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

***Romans 8:29** - For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

- 2. Some future apostates *appear* to have genuine faith for a time.

***Matthew 13:20–21** - ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a*

while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

3. Hebrews 6 teaches that this temporary spiritual vitality is a real gift of grace from God.
4. That's why the judgment received by apostates is more severe.

Matthew 11:20–22 - ²⁰ Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

II. What are ways to avoid “sinning deliberately”?

- A. Heed the warnings of scripture!
- B. Consistently remember the hope of the glorious and eternal future that God has promised to us.

Matthew 5:10–12 - ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.