

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for July 24, 2016**

**The Dangers of Sinning Willfully**  
**Hebrews 10:26-31**

Hebrews 10:26-31 is a warning against the sin of apostasy.

The Greek word translated “apostasy” (APOSTASIA) means defection, departure, revolt or rebellion.

When a professing Christian in essence departs from Christ and His gospel, manifesting that departure by choosing a life of willful disobedience, that professing Christian is in the process of committing the sin of apostasy.

Based on Hebrews 10:26, the sin of apostasy cannot take place unless two basic components are present.

The first basic component of the sin of apostasy is having received the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26b).

The Greek word for knowledge (EPIGNOSIS) that the author used in verse 26 denotes full knowledge, understanding and discernment.

When the author spoke of “the truth,” he was referencing the truth of the gospel.

The second basic component of what constitutes the sin of apostasy is sinning willfully after having received the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26a).

The word “sinning” (HAMARTANONTON) carries the idea of “ongoing,” and the word “willfully” (HEKOUSIOS) carries the idea of “deliberate.”

So what are the consequences for an apostate?

For an apostate there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 10:26).

For an apostate there is only a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of fire (Hebrews 10:27; cf. Revelation 20:11-15).

For an apostate there is a much severer punishment reserved for him in hell than for any other unbeliever (Hebrews 10:28-31).

May God give us the grace as we continue to hold fast to our confession to live in a manner consistent with our confession thus giving evidence that we are truly one of God’s children.

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