

A comparison between Hebrews 10:26-31 and I John 3:6-10.

Hebrews 10:26-31

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The theology of the passage:

1. Are these believers or unbelievers? _____
 - * Helpful indicators:
 - 1 The authors use of the first-person plural, *we*.
 - 2 The description of those having “received the knowledge of the truth....”
2. Are these individuals living in obedience or not? _____
 - * Helpful indicators:
 - 1 The phrase, “go on sinning deliberately” says a lot.
 - 2 The phrases, “...the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace,” also makes the case clear.
3. Is this indicating that a believer can have his salvation annulled? _____
 - * Hermeneutical indicators:
 - 1 We interpret “there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” within its theological and Biblical contexts.
 - Remaining in sin doesn’t mean Christ didn’t sacrifice Himself for us. Romans 5:8
 - Remaining in sin doesn’t mean that Christ didn’t save us by His sacrifice. Romans 5:9-10
 - Remaining in sin doesn’t mean that Christ didn’t atone for those sins. Romans 5:11
 - 2 What about the, “expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries?”
 - Judgment cannot be eternal since salvation has come, but it can be physical and temporal. – Hebrews 12:6
 - The fury of fire speaks to the extent God is willing to go to bring just punishment. – Numbers 16:35

I John 3:6-10

⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

The theology of the passage:

1. Are these believers or unbelievers? _____
 - * Indicators:
 - 1 John refers to those “who abide in him.”
 - 2 John employs the phrase “children of God.”
2. Are these people living in obedience or not? _____
 - * Indicators:
 - 1 “No one who keeps on sinning has wither seen him or known him.”
 - 2 “Whoever practices righteousness is righteous.”
 - 3 “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning...”
 - 4 “...whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God...”
3. Is this indicating that a believer cannot sin? _____
 - * Hermeneutical indicators:
 - 1 We interpret the above phrases within the theological parameters constructed throughout the rest of God’s Word.
 - Even after someone is saved, they still have a propensity to sin.
Romans 7:15-17
 - Even after someone is saved, there is a war waged to do good or evil.
Romans 7:22-23
 - 2 So, what about the statements given above?
 - The key to interpreting this safely comes in the ESV term, “practice(s)” found in verses 7 and 8. This indicates long-term lifestyle.

SUMMARY:

Though born again, God’s people still sin. Some even give themselves over to sin, beyond just a single incident. However, if they give themselves over to a sinful lifestyle, God will discipline with a heavy hand.