

## 5 (or 7) WARNINGS IN HEBREWS

### Warnings addressed to believers:

*The only warning in Bible to unbelievers is to believe in Jesus as Savior.*

- 2.1-4 neglecting the Word of God, peril of drifting
- 3.7-19 hard hearts of unbelief, peril of doubting, falling away
- 4.1-13 unbelief, missing the Rest [*of Canaan*]
- 5.11-6.12 immaturity, dullness, sluggishness, peril of walking away from God
- 10.26-31 willful sin, defiance
- 12.14-17 bitterness, fail of the grace of God
- 12.25-29 refusal, bitterness, tolerance of sin

\* Many writers combine the 2 blue-circled topics as one warning.

These are copies of my notes on Hebrews taken directly from my college syllabus at Florida Bible College of Tampa.

You may access the entire syllabus on my website:

[www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)  
Click on "Print Syllabi"

You also have opportunity to view 20 hours of videos on the website:

Click on YouTube Sessions  
"Hebrews"

*It includes everything but the Homework.*

2.1-4 **WARNING #1** Word confirmed by signs  
What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

2:1 **“We ought to give the more earnest heed. . .lest at any time we should let them slip”**

Danger of slipping away. 5-7 warnings in this book. Slip = drift [in NKJV & virtually all newer translations].

This warning section = vss. 1-4

Eleven lures to go back to Temple worship?

1. Visible proof of God’s presence
2. Not idolatry, per se, but worshipper is able to: see sacrifices, smells, sounds, bustle of religion, priests, Temple itself
3. Rules are clearly spelled out
4. Written Torah [no books of NT were widely distributed]
5. Rituals had been good enough for 1,500 years
6. Moses wasn’t being replaced by any big name church personality
7. Walking by sight was comfortable
8. Lots of familiar holiday [feasts] had familiar songs [Psalms]
9. Simplicity, just follow the rules
10. No weekly meetings under Law, no elders, no communion, no change in marriage laws, no excommunication, no supposedly “risen” Savior,
11. The Kingdom had not yet come as promised. Moses said nothing about a replacement for the ceremonial laws

**“let them slip”**, *παραρῳμεν, pararyomen* = drift away NASB

\* The ancient “Disciplines of the Christian Life” to keep us from slipping.

2.1 **“give more earnest heed [pay closer attention]”**

\* Myers’ 5 Spiritual Muscle Exercises: Eyes, Ears, Mouth, Knees, & Hands

It’s not comprehensive, but easy enough for a new believer to remember.

- **Eyes**, read your Bible, start in John—look for “believe” [98X]
- **Ears**, listen hard in church, apply it
- **Mouth**, tell somebody else about Jesus
- **Knees**, pray [confess, thank, ask, worship, intercede for others]
- **Hands**, do things you know would please God

2:2,3 **“[pay attention to] the word spoken through angels. . .steadfast”**

\* “word” is this the Word of God delivered through angels?

\* Note that angels’ words are “steadfast” [unalterable - NASB, reliable - ESV, legally binding - Holman].

**“every transgression and disobedience received a just [fair] recompense of reward”**

Sins receive correction from the Father. Sometimes punitive, sometimes for rehabilitation, the same as parents.

- Loss of rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ, *II Cor 5.10*
- Disappointing the One who died for us.
- Disobedience receives punishment [chapter 12.6 ff, the chastening chapter]
  - a. false doctrine
  - b. moral compromise
  - c. leadership failure
  - d. conforming to world
  - e. evangelistic complacency*Swindoll*
- “saved yet so as by fire” *I Cor 3.15*

**“how shall we [believers] escape [consequences], if we neglect so great salvation?”**

\* Yes, even believers are careless and neglect [disrespect, treat casually, ignore] the importance of their own salvation.

\* We have all met people who have forgotten they are saved since they’ve neglected to obey.

\* “There are no happy disobedient children.”

\* I have friends who are believers but who have become complacent about God. Do you? They can give very clear testimony that they are placing their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, but their lives do not radiate the joy of the Lord. It’s not so much that overt evil has gripped them, but that God is no longer central in their thinking or priorities. The sins of neglect. Letting it slip.

2:4 **“God also bearing them [angels, see v. 2] witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will?”**

God ratifies the shift from the OT dispensation of Law to the New Testament Church with a splurge of miracles the same way He introduced the Mosaic period of Law with 20 or 30 miracles. This time He primarily uses the 12 Apostles and 3 others.  
\* Most believers in Bible times never saw a miracle [*Red Sea era excepted*].

#2

**3.7-19 WARNING #2 Do not become hardened**

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

3:7-9 **WARNING** **“Harden not your [believers’] hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness. . . your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.”**

Israel tested God’s patience:

\* complained 10X

Exodus, chaps 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 32 Num 11, 12, 13, 14

\* deprived of rest for 40 years after refusal to enter Canaan, *Kadesh-Barnea, Num 14*

\* Crossing Jordan into the Promised Land is often mistaken for “dying and going to heaven.”

\* These hard hearts are believers who now fail to trust God.

Ps 66.18 “if I regard iniquity in my heart. . . .”

3:10,11 **I was grieved with that generation, and said, “They do always err in their heart. . . They shall not enter into My rest.”**

\* **“rest”**, 43X in NT

\* Rest? or No Rest? Heb 3.11,18 4.1,3,4,5,8,9,10 9X

\* This is the rest of victory in a believer’s life. Finishing the course well. Faith granted the Israelis eternal rest, but in Hebrews God is drawing a picture of His own rest at creation.

\* Recumbent faith. Resting in the arms of God. Do you ever picture yourself wrapped in God’s arms or sitting on God’s lap and just letting Him hug you?

\* Rest, full barns soon, pre-built cities, walls, wells, established trade routes for caravans, free land . . . .

\* Dissatisfaction with God’s instructions is an abomination with consequences.

**So I swear in My wrath,**

\* Only one thing makes God angry—sin.

3:12 **“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief”**

Lack of faith [*dissatisfaction*] in God is evil.

**WARNING: “departing from the living God.”**

departing, **απιστια, apistia** [*a-without pistis-faith*] = apostasy, translated “unbelief” 3.19

We can’t trust God anymore.

Religion is more comfortable than pursuing God. What was the big draw to cause someone to leave God and return to Judaism? Same as the 21st century.

• I lost my old friends when I joined the church. [*see list on p. 12*]

• Better to walk by sight, not faith.

3:13 **“Exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”**

There is a solution for **“unbelief”** for the believer. . . encourage somebody else!

Don’t ask me to explain it. Just do it!

\* esteem others \* speak truth sweetly

\* no grudges

\* look for others’ strengths \* forgiving quickly

\* compliments

Eph 4.12 edify others in the Body of Christ. see also Rom 12.3 & Phil 2.3

\* On a side note: Clyde Narramore, biblical counselor, spoke on the telephone with a seriously troubled patient and said, “Right now hang up the phone and go do something nice for somebody else!”

The opposite of encouraging:

\* Finding fault

\* lack thankfulness

\* Edge in the voice

\* failing to look for others’ strengths

3:14 **“For we are made partakers of Christ”** I Pet 4.13 II Pet 1.4 Col 1.12 I Cor 10.17

*see comments at 2.9*

**“partakers IF we hold. . .steadfast unto the end”**

Problem: What if we don't hold fast?

Do we lose our “partaker” status?

There is no exact Greek cognate for the English word “if.”

\* In the KJV the word “if” **ἐἴπερ, eanper** is rendered 7 ways: 1.) if, 2.) if indeed, 3.) but if, 4.) to you that unless, 5.) whithersoever, 6.) unless, or 7.) whether

\* Some students interpret this to mean “if you don't hold fast to the end of life there is no assurance of salvation.”

Response: The law of non-contradiction insists that any interpretation of this phrase cannot countermand the multitude of verses which say:

believe. . .eternal life

believe. . .be saved

believe. . .sons of God

. . .therefore it must be translated with those passages in mind which exclude works as a requirement of salvation

**see [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com), 211 Verses, believe or faith  
God's 2 Favorite Words**

Possibly: **“partakers IF we hold (our original confidence firm)”**

3:15 **WARNING: “While it is said, today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.**

See discussion at 3.7,8—identical wording

3:16 **“Some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.**

I choose to believe that all adults were believers on the night of Passover, but we can say with certainty that there was at least one believer in every single household on that night with a voice strong enough to insist on the blood.

Ex 12.20.

3:17-19 **“With whom was he grieved [and angry, v.11] forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned? . . .unbelief”**

\* They had a well-informed, unified hard heart for one afternoon. Consequences, severe for 40 years.

\* God's Fatherhood obligates Him to withhold blessings from disobedient children. *See 12.12ff.*

Deut 9.23 “Go up. . .and you did not believe Him or obey His voice.”

Num 14.2 “The sons of Israel grumbled. . .v.6 Joshua. . .Caleb. . .tore their clothes.”

Entering God's **“rest”**, **“not able to enter because of unbelief”**, tis is the accurate part but there is are true believers who do not have a daily restful spirit because they are not living by faith. Canaan is the Promised Land, a picture of the result of obedience.

\* Negro Spirituals erroneously equate entering Canaan with entering heaven. God's rest is a satisfaction which comes from faith and obedience.

\* Bad theology but good motivation that God truly has prepared a restful life for obedient believers.

“Trust and obey, for there is no other way,

To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.” *John Sammis*

\* Our unbelief will prevent God's rest in our hearts. Human contentment will not cover it up.

#3

4.1-13 **WARNING #3** Faith brings rest

Jesus is Better than Joshua's Rest

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

RECUBANT FAITH brings contentment

4:1,2 **WARNING, don't miss the Rest:**

"let us therefore fear,

\* There should be a reverential fear of God's displeasure. There is only one thing that you can do to disappoint God—sin.

"seem to come short of it [the Rest]."

Rest is promised but it is based squarely on behavior.

True, faith is a learned behavior, but it is available to all consistently obedient believers. Got a friend who lives in fear, anxiety, knots in stomach? Suspect sin lurks. Help your friend to walk through these deep waters and to confront sins. I'd start with confessing grudges.

Biblical faith is a decision. It is confidence in a person, Jesus Christ. It is truly a supernatural choice. God grants a lifetime of peace, rest, contentment, and serenity regardless of furious circumstances. Alas, not all believers trust God through the deep waters.

- Heb 13.5 "be content. . .I will never leave you"
- Phil 4.12 "contentment. . .I have learned in whatever circumstances"
- Psa 23.1 "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack."
- John 14.27 "My peace I give unto you."

"Faith isn't hard. . .but it has to be so bloomin' persistent." anon

\* Matt 11.30 "My burden is light."

**If serving the Lord seems a heavy unpleasant burden you are carrying more of the burden than God intended.**

4:3-5 "We which have believed do enter into rest"

Each of us might be able to cite times when we experienced an overwhelming peace in circumstances which causes others to cringe, whine, dive into depression or anxiety, or complain.

That is precisely what God means by this Rest.

And by the by, you can live continually in this Rest year after year. I know many who do. It is confidence in a person. It is truly a super-natural choice yet any person can choose rest.

- God isn't just disappointed with unbelief. He is angry, too. 3.11
- Psa 23.2 In green pasture and still waters He restores my soul. Yes, many believers rarely get rattled by anything and sometimes their circumstances are unbelievably uncomfortable. Same as yours. Lack of trust blocks rest.

4.6 "unbelief [disobedience, NASB]"

3.12 unbelief in departing from the living God

3.13 hardened through the deceitfulness of sin

3.18,19 unbelief, believed not

4.11 disobedience

Trusting God in wilderness context.

Trusting God in 21 century context

\_\_\_ finances

\_\_\_ education

\_\_\_ food

\_\_\_ family tension

\_\_\_ health

\_\_\_ job

\_\_\_ God's leading

\_\_\_ raising kids

\_\_\_ political climate

4.7-13 **The Word reveals the intent of my heart**

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

4:7 **WARNING, don't fossilize, "harden not your hearts."**

It is a sin to live in \*anxiety.

\* We all know that there are medical treatments which address some issues, but it is my observation that some friends who claim to have medical issues also

have ongoing sin related habits. Some of commission. Some of omission.

**“don’t harden your heart”**

heart

3.8	4.12
3.10	8.10
3.12	10.16
3.15	10.22
4.7	13.9

\* He wants to settle your hearts.

4:9-11 **“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. . . Let us labor [be diligent, NASB] therefore to enter into that rest.”**, This is the Sabbath Rest which Joshua promised.

Diligence is the opposite of “**drifting, slipping**,” 2.1

\* Do you look forward to seeing how God will use you tomorrow?

\* “At the end of every day we should be able to say, “I couldn’t have done what I did today without God’s help.” John Walvoord, *president, Dallas Seminary*

4:12,13 **“The Word of God”**,

- By this time [62 AD] most of Paul’s books plus the Gospels were getting around to the dozen church-plants [20?] in existence, plus the Jerusalem and Israeli churches.

**“Word = quick. . . powerful. . . sharper. . . piercing. . . discerner”**

- **quick = alive**, but it doesn’t grow
- [so] **powerful** it cuts into our hearts and discerns our intentions

**“dividing asunder of soul and Spirit”**

- **piercing**, the book can discern the motives [intentions] of our thoughts

Soul & spirit seems to support the idea that man is a trichotomy, not a dichotomy.

\* body physical

plants have only a body

\* soul ego: personality, feelings, goals, emotive

mammals have body & soul

\* spirit a spiritual entity, God pricks the heart, sin

humans alone grasp purpose to life

[see blog www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com)

[25 Genes Evolution Can’t Explain](#)

**#4**

**5.11-6.12 WARNING #4 You are dim-witted**

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

5:11 **“Ye are dull of hearing”**, [slothful, sluggish]. The whole book of Hebrews seems to be written to second generation believers who haven’t quite weaned themselves from the ritualism of Temple worship.

\* Very little NT Scripture has been available to help form their doctrine. The dangers of “slipping/driftng” have not yet been expressed explicitly.

\* Although Paul is chiding them for immaturity, he is also gently guiding them, wooing them, toward growth. At the same time he is warning them of both consequences disobedience as well as chastening at the hands of a loving God.

5:12 **“When for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat,**

I was one of these dull Christians, myself. A fellow student, Yankee Arnold, used this verse to encourage me to grow like a weed. So I did!

Go invade someone’s space. Challenge him. Coddle her. Teach them to take baby steps. Invite them to join [BibleByParagraphs.com](http://BibleByParagraphs.com). A kind word. Go find somebody like I was. Linda dug her claws in me and I grew!

[see PDFs on Serving](#) [She Entered My Space, Dug Her Claws in Me](#)

[www.BibleByParagraphs.com](http://www.BibleByParagraphs.com) home page

[see www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com) [Doc’s Discovery Books](#), I ask 5-10 questions in every chapter of the Bible. A great tool for you to encourage others to begin the habit of Bible reading.

Print off the Gospel of John and give it to a friend.

- 5.13 **“for he is a baby”**, milk drinker  
\* I remained a milk drinker until I was out of college. I was one of those who needed someone to intervene, get in my face, and take me by the hand.  
\* Although my dad led me to the Lord as a small child, I can’t remember his encouraging me to develop the habit of reading my Bible on my own.
- 5.14 **“strong meat. . .by reason of use [practice, NASB]. . .discern (38) both good and evil”**:  
**“meat”** = Bible reading, quick confession, walking with the Lord each day, seeking the lost, deeply involved at church, consciously trusting Jesus daily, using spiritual gift.  
**“by reason of use”**, growing comes as a result of discipline. A grandpa could still be a baby Christian if he doesn’t grow.

6.1-8 **Stick to the 6 essentials** What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----  
**WARNING: Don't fall away!**

6:1,2 **“Leaving the [six] principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on. . .[build on your foundation]”**  
**“the foundation is”**:

1. **repentance from dead works**
2. **faith toward God**
3. **baptism**
4. **laying on of hands** [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com) **Laying on Hands**
5. **the resurrection**
6. **eternal judgment**, rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, *I Cor 5.10*

**“resurrection”**, OT pertaining to Rez was not clearly referring to heaven. OT saints expected to join David in a Kingdom ruled by a Messiah. “I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”  
*Psa 23.6*

Church Age believers take the resurrection to mean eternal life in heaven. Hebrews clearly points to heaven.

6:4,5 **“It is impossible for those. . .enlightened [= saved]. . .tasted [= saved]. . .made partakers [= saved] of the Holy Ghost. . .tasted [= saved] the good word of God”**,

The whole book is addressed to believers in the Church Age.

3 HAPAX LEGOMENON = *unique words or phrases used only once in the Bible*

- \* **“those who were once enlightened”** = saved
- \* **“tasted the good word of God”** = saved
- \* **“if they shall fall away”** = saved

**“partakers”**, I Pet 4.13 II Pet 1.4

**“tasted”**, see notes at Heb 2.9, Jesus’ tasting death.

\* **γενομαι, genomai** = eat [not nibble]

I Pet 2.3 “tasted that the Lord is gracious [the kindness of the Lord, NASB]”

\* Remember, the whole book is written to believers.

\* 4 figures of speech for “salvation”

- Enlighten, 6.4
- Partakers, 6.4
- Tasted death for every man, 2.9 I Pet 2.2,3
- Tasted the words of God, 6.5

6.6 **“fall away. . .impossible to renew. . .to repentance”**, unthinkable because Christ has already saved us “forever.”

To **“fall away”** by definition is not clearly a biblical statement meaning to lose one’s salvation. This is the only time the Greek word is used in the Bible,

it is called a HAPAX LEGOMENON, one-time-use.

fall away, **παραπεσονταισ, parapesontas** = [parapipto], to fall, alight as, to fall into a trap

No one can receive renewing [rebirth] more than once.

\* How can they crucify anyone twice? Impossible!

- Died once, I Pet 3.18 Heb 9.12,26,28 10.10,12 Rom 6.10

\* Repent once, can’t repent again. You’re already saved, “so as by fire.”

\* Yes, they can shame Him by their actions.

\* Yes, their bad works can be “burned up,”



I Cor 3.13,15 "yet he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire."

A very strong and clear verse to support eternal security.

see [www.PhilMyersBlog.com](http://www.PhilMyersBlog.com) [5 Crowns: rewards only for obedient saints](#)  
see [PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [10 Kinds of People in Our Churches](#)

6:6-8 "If they shall fall away, [WARNING! Don't fall away] to renew them again unto repentance

- \* They cannot be saved again. They can't repent again.
- \* Not a hypothetical situation. People do fall away. Some even deny the faith for a while.  
see [PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) [2 Kinds of Repentance, 2 Kinds of Forgiveness, for saved and for unsaved](#)
- \* Disobedient Christians who fall away "put Him to an open shame." They openly make Jesus ashamed.
- \* They embarrass Jesus.  
see [Blog](http://Blog) [64 Irreversible Changes at Salvation](#), these would all have to be undone if we could lose our salvation

"Fallen from grace" Gal 5.3,4

- \* This expression is also a HAPAX LEGOMENON = a unique phrase
- \* This verse specifically is addressed toward unbelievers who are trying to be saved by works.
- \* Those unsaved people have fallen from grace.

"If they shall fall away", these are called "castaways" [I Cor 9.27],

There is a whole section in chapter Heb 12.5-17 dealing with God's chastening His disobedient children.

He will discuss it at length when we get there.

- I heard someone say, "If you've confessed your sins then you have not committed the sins mentioned in Hebrews 6 or 10." anon Hmm-m-m.

6.9-12 Be diligent, not dull [slothful] What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

6:9-12 "Beloved [saints], we are persuaded better things of you"

Yes, God expects heaps of good works from every believer. I compiled a list of 120 NT verses. It is [APPENDIX T, in Blog Yes, We Are! No, We're Not, part II](#).

However, there are no good deeds by which we can determine whether or not another person is saved. [Blog 2 Calvinists' Anxiety \[MacArthur & Sproul\]](#) about their own salvation

#5

10.26-31 **WARNING #5** Willful sin of defiance

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

10:26 "If we [Paul, too] sin willfully [little or big] after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more [no other] sacrifice for sins [except Jesus' sacrifice of Himself, vs. 18]"

\* Christ will never die again, ever!

Known consequences:

- v. 27 devour v.28 death v.29 sorer punishment  
v.30 vengeance from God v.30 judgment v.31 fear

see [Blog](http://Blog) [Willful sins, Big sins, Denial of the Faith](#), a discussion against the belief that willful sin cancels one's salvation

"the knowledge of the truth", this is actually a synonym of salvation, quite the same meaning as believe, repent, or faith.

10:27-29 "But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. Of how much sorer punishment. . . who hath (69) trodden under foot the Son of God"

\* trodden underfoot, = to treat with disdain, contempt, disrespect, despise, v.29



- 10:30 *hath counted. . .an unholy thing*,  
 “*We know Him that hath said, vengeance [sorer punishment, v.29]. . .I will recompense, saith the Lord*”,
- 10:31 *It is a fearful thing*, context = sins which cause death:
- Acts 5, Ananias & Saphira
  - Lev 12, Nadab & Abihu
  - II Sam 10, David & Bathsheba [death penalty was stoning, Deut 22.24]
- \* “If we walk with the Lord there is no need to be afraid of the Lord.” anon
- \* Three kinds of sins: \* ignorance, Lev 4.2, 13-15  
 \* omission, James 4.17 “to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not”  
 \* defilement, presumption, intentional, Exod 21.14

#6

12.14-17 **WARNING #6** Esau's bad example, bitterness, failing grace

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

TWO POSITIVE COMMANDS

- 12:14 “*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord*”,  
 sanctification, *ἁγιασμον, hagianmon* = holiness, set apart for special purpose

THREE NEGATIVE WARNINGS

- 12:15 “*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God*  
*lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you*”,

Chastening is designed & delivered to drive out our stubbornness or bitterness.

We are to say, “Thank You, Father” after our trip to the wood shed.

Bitter grudges have untold damage.

- 12:16,17 “*Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau [2 wives? Gen 26 & 36], who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright*”

Esau despised his father’s blessing which would come with the birthright. But Esau got his father’s birthright anyway when his little brother skipped town for 20 years.

\* I have wondered when Esau will serve Jacob in fulfillment of Gen 25.23. Trib? Kingdom?

\* also called Dome of the Rock from which Muhammed claimed to have ascended to heaven  
 [Qur'an, chapter 17]

#7

12.25-29 **WARNING #7** Don't resist God, tolerance of sin

What is the BIG IDEA in this paragraph? -----

12:25 NEGATIVE WARNING

“*See that ye refuse not [avoid, deprecate, reject] Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away, from Him that speaketh from heaven*”,

“Rebellion is knowing to do right and choosing to do wrong.” *pjmyers*

12:28,29 POSITIVE WARNING

“*let us have grace [charis]. . .serve God. . .reverence. . .godly fear. Our God is a consuming fire.*”

\* Rom 1.18-21 “the wrath of God” Only about sin.

\* Obedience is the one step solution to avoiding God’s wrath.

## *The Danger of Drifting*

*“lest at any time we should let them slip [drift]” Hebrews 2.1*

### Reasons why Jewish Christians slipped away from their churches in 52 AD.

*[Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, & Hindus often face the same dilemma when they trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.]*

1.  Jews in the first century like the comfort of all the Jewish rules, sacrifices, trips to the synagogues, feast days.
2.  Our religion, Judaism, came straight from the mouth of God on Sinai! We can trace our Jewish roots back 2,000 years to Abraham. These apostles want us to be satisfied with a history back only back to Pentecost 20 years ago. Huh?
3.  We like the coziness of all the rituals from their past. Keeping all the rules makes me feel moral.
4.  A-sermon-a-week doesn't fill the void left by missing out on Jewish-ness .
5. Many of us wear our religion like a comfortable pair of shoes or a favorite sweater.
6.  Leaving the familiar is like not getting a hug from your mother.
7.  I lost all my fishing buddies when I joined a Bible believing church.
8.  I can't marry the girl I've liked for the last 5 years. She's a nice Jewish girl but she doesn't believe in Jesus. . .yet.
9.  The 600 rules of Moses were strict, but these Church rules are vague: love, be patient, be generous, pray, don't think bad thoughts, don't get back. It's so constant. You can never tell when you've done enough. I like the lists of all the commands better.
10.  Friends shun me.
11.  My boss says I have to leave my religion at home.
12.  My kids don't understand why all the meetings I go to.
13.  My friends have seen other friends go off into other cults, even idolatry, and they're okay with it, but they don't like my telling them there is only one way—and that I'm right!
14.  I'm not sure I can live with the possibility of persecution.
15.  I'm allergic to beatings and whippings like Paul got.
16.  I grew up expecting a Messiah-King on a white horse, not a dead rabbi who came back from the grave.

OPINION, please

Mark any that affect you.

Mark any that might hard for others you know.