

DAY 32 THURSDAY

HEBREWS 10:26-39 SERIOUS BUSINESS

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. ³⁸ But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

How lightly we take God. Here the author is writing to encourage these believers not to forsake the faith in the face of physical persecution and immanent threat of death. Yet, I sit in my suburban home, safely in my study, not presently under any tangible death threat even from disease. But shrink back I do. I who have no excuse daily continue on my merry sinful way without so much as a twinge to my conscience. I, and those like me, am probably in more danger of *trampling the Son of God under foot* and insulting *the Spirit of grace* than the recipients of this letter. We belong to the Church in Laodicea:

^{3:15} I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. (Revelation 3:15-21)

We need to take Jesus' request to open the door to him and let him rule in our lives. If he is truly our Lord and Savior there is no way we can ignore him.

Come, Lord Jesus, and deliver me from my all consuming self-focus. Open my eyes to the spiritual perils that surround me, not so I will become paranoid, but so that I might be ever dependent upon you and ever honoring of your great sacrifice for me. Amen.