

The Epistle to the Hebrews

Words of Warning

- Questions

1. How does the Old English word “lest” (KJV) serve as a warning throughout the book (2:1; 3:12, 13; 4:1, 11; 12:3, 13, 15-16)?
2. What OT example does the author use as a warning for unbelieving and disobedient behavior (3:7 – 4:11)? What other OT example does the author use as a warning against falling away from God’s grace (12:15-17)?
3. What three types of dangers does the author warn against? (Use the scriptures to give examples of each type of danger.)

Passive dangers: falling away because of simply not trying hard enough (2:1, 3; 5:11; 6:12; 12:3).

Active dangers: falling away because of willful, bad behavior (3:12; 4:11; 6:6; 10:25; 10:26-29; 10:26; 12:25)

External dangers: falling away because of outside pressures and difficulties (2:18; 4:16; 10:32-34; 12:25; 13:3; 13:9).

4. What is the basic danger warned against in the following sections of the book and what is the dire consequence for the Christian who does not “give heed” to these warnings?

Danger

Dire Consequence

2:1 through 2:4 –

3:7 through 4:13 –

5:11 through 6:12 –

10:26 through 10:31 –

12:25 through 12:29 –

- Applications for Today

1. Christians need to slow down in their race of life and pay attention to God's "take heed" warning signs (1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Tim. 4:16; Heb. 3:12) and God's "give heed" warning signs (1 Tim. 4:13; Heb. 2:1).
2. The Bible does not teach, "Once saved always saved." Christians falling away from God's grace is not a hypothetical danger; but in fact, a real and present danger (Heb. 3:12; 4:1, 11; 12:15).
3. The NT teaches the possibility of apostasy (falling away) for a Christian in the following four ways:
 - a) Examples of apostasy: (Acts 5:1-10; 8:18-24; 1 Cor. 10:5-11; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 4:10; Heb. 6:6; James 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).
 - b) Plain statements of apostasy (Lk. 8:13; Jn. 15:1-5; Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 3:5; 20:14-15).
 - c) Warnings against the possibility of apostasy (1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Heb. 3:12; 4:1, 11; 12:15; 2 Pet. 3:17).
 - d) Conditional "if" statements of apostasy (Gal. 6:9; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14; 2 Pet. 1:8-11; 1 Jn. 1:7; 2:24).