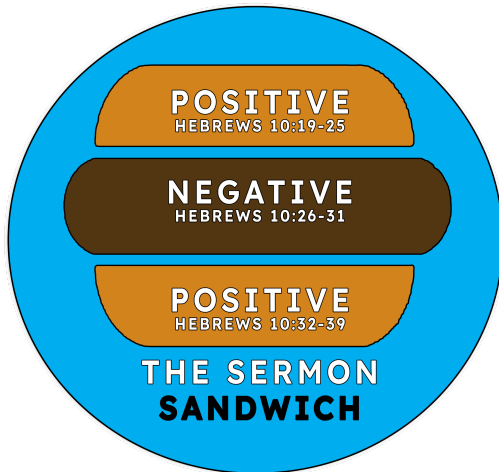


The Sermon Sandwich

(Hebrews 10:18-39) Listen@JohnLongwell.com

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Hebrews 10:18 (ESV) “Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.”

I. Expiation - Our sins are not only forgiven but the record of their existence is removed.

A. The jails are all destroyed when there are no more guilty verdicts.

Hebrews 10:19-25 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

B. We now enter into the presence of God with confidence and full assurance without wavering.

1. [Bob Dylan refused access to his concert](#) in Oregon in 2001 after 9/11 security levels
2. Bob confidently, without wavering in full assurance demanded entrance!

II. Our new expected attitude to approaching God is different from our former.

A. Reluctance, shame, a constant reminder by the enemy of our failures and regrets.

B. I have been preaching a sermon and been attacked by these false thoughts of past sins.

III. Our conviction should be contagious as we stir one another to love and good works.

A. We do this by going where God's people gather to encourage and to be encouraged.

B. The world's hostility is so pronounced today that God's house ought to offer a distinct refuge.

IV. The Apostasy Warning (they who once believed then reject those beliefs)

Hebrews 10:26-31 (ESV) 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.

A. How do I know I'm not guilty of this?

1. If you care enough to ask this question.

2. If the Spirit still convicts you of sin (if it stings) you're still safe.

B. My stance is their salvation probably wasn't genuine.

1. They learned the lingo and the lifestyle, but weren't connected.

Matt. 13 Parable of Sewer (birds devoured, no root in soil or thorns choked out)

2. Big picture, (only God knows), so we pray for their salvation!

3. Imagine an inkling of understanding of God's grace & mercy and then rejecting it, this is true sadness, ignorance would be better.

Seeming Apostate, former preacher turned hardcore comic Sam Kinison

- "Folks, I've been sober now for 17 days. Just not all in a row."

- You can make 'em laugh, but you can't make 'em happy. It takes God to do that.

V. Final Positive Part of our Sandwich

Hebrews 10:32-39 (ESV) But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; 38 but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

- A. The Caution: Don't allow suffering & struggles make you waver or apostatize.
 - 1. I'm no drama, when people talk politics I'm agreeable (not in agreement as I have no opinion & really don't care).
 - 2. Challenge: stand in truth & don't get swept away in worldliness.
- B. The Encouragement: don't give up (or in) when it gets tough.
 - 1. Remember former hard times & the grace that sustained you.
 - 2. That same Godly endurance will carry you through to the end.
- C. Just hear the encouraging tone of these final eight verses.
 - 1. God is for you, not just now, but until the end.
 - 2. Coach in our Corner: It's just a little while longer...you can do it!

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Perfect Sermon Sandwich (Yummy)!