

The Hands of the Living God

Hebrews 10:26-31

Jeremy Bell

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Sermon Theme: Scripture is clear, God is love. Scripture is equally clear that God is also just. This text confronts us once again with the fact that there is a day coming when God will judge all people. Those who have rejected His offer of forgiveness will be judged and experience eternal punishment. Believers also will be judged, yet because of the righteousness of Christ given to us by faith, we will be eternally with the Lord in glory.

“Would a God who did not care about the difference between right and wrong be a good and admirable being? Would a God who put no distinction between the beasts of history, the Hitlers and Stalins, and His own saints, be morally praiseworthy and perfect?” -- JI Packer

“The Bible leaves us in no doubt that God loves righteousness and hates iniquity, and that ideal of a judge wholly identified with what is good and right is perfectly fulfilled in Him.” -- JI Packer

“Shall not the judge of the earth do what is just?” -- Genesis 18:25

“When there’s something in the Word of God that I don’t like, the problem isn’t with the Word of God, its with me” -- RC Sproul

Application:

1. Run to Christ and receive His grace!

- If we have any doubt that God is love, we look no further than the cross.
- Christ took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved, in order that those who believe in Him, might not experience God’s wrath and eternal judgment, but instead eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” — John 3:16

2. Let us not blunt the truth of the gospel

- It is easy to talk about the love of God; its hard to talk about the coming judgment of God for those who reject Christ will experience His judgment
- Its actually the most loving thing we can do, to love people enough to tell them the truth!
- May God enable us to be faithful to share the whole message of the gospel – that God loves us and has provided a way for our sins to be completely forgiven.

3. Celebrate and enjoy the gospel every day of our lives

Questions for Discussion/Application:

- Consider taking time to read Hebrews 10:26-31 out loud. What initial insights or observations of the text do you have?
- Hebrews in general, and our passage in particular, provides a sobering warning regarding continuing in ongoing deliberate, willful sin (see verse 26). What does it mean — what does it look like, for us as believers to truly take these warnings to heart and apply them to our lives?
- What do you see some of the negative consequences might be of ignoring or overlooking warnings like that which we see in our passage?
- In scripture we see that God is a God who is 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.' Yet, God is also a God who takes sin very seriously, so seriously in fact that He sent His beloved Son to die on the Cross for our sins. Practically speaking, how do we live in light of both these realities — the love of God and the holiness of God?
- Why is it so critical in our time, that we not blunt the truth of the gospel (see application #2)? Practically, how do we speak the truth in love to those who do not yet know Christ?
- Jeremy reminded us under his third application point to “celebrate and enjoy the gospel every day of our lives.” Another way to say the same thing is as Jerry Bridges put it — 'preach the gospel to yourself every day.' What does it mean for us to truly do that? How have you been doing with preaching the gospel to yourself daily?
- Consider taking time to pray, asking God to help us to take the warnings of Hebrews seriously AND to celebrate and enjoy the gospel every day of our lives.