INTRODUCTION:

A. Hebrews were going through difficult times of persecution for their faith
   1. Some attempted to detach themselves from Christian fellowship to avoid arrest and suffering.
   2. Some turned their backs on Christianity, reverting back to Judaism
   3. Hebrews 10 exhorts Christians to maintain faith in Christ, regardless of trials they face.

B. Five WARNINGS of Hebrews
   1. Drifting (2:1-4) hearing the Gospel message and doing nothing about it
   2. Doubting God (3:7-4:2)
   3. Dull hearing (5:11-14)
   4. Departing (6:1-20) Leaving Christianity and going back to Judaism
   5. Despising (10:26-39) Apostasy
      a. True Christians who subsequently turn away from Christ and are lost.
      b. True Christians who backslide but still saved
      c. Christians who profess Christ, but do not possess Him

I. What is APOSTASY? (vs. 26)

A. Sinning deliberately after receiving knowledge of truth
   1. Judas
      a. He heard the gospel
      b. Knew the way of salvation
      c. Pretended to receive it
      d. Deliberately rejected it
   2. Anyone rejecting Jesus has no sacrifice for his sins

B. Apostasy is willfully sinning

C. Result of apostasy is JUDGMENT (vs. 27)

D. Doom of the lawbreaker (vs. 28; Deuteronomy 17:2-6)

II. Charges against the apostate (vs. 29)
A. Trampled the Son of God underfoot

B. He has counted the blood of the covenant a common thing

C. He has insulted the Holy Spirit

III. Three reasons believers should MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE in Jesus Christ (vss. 33-34)

A. Past EXPERIENCES
   1. Persecution
   2. Disowned by families
   3. Friends forsaking them
   4. Foes harassing them
   5. Possessions confiscated (1 Peter 1:4)

B. The nearness of the REWARD (vs. 35)
   1. Need for ENDURANCE
   2. Determination to remain FAITHFUL in face of persecution

C. Fear of God’s DISPLEASURE (vss. 37-38)
   1. Life that abandons Christ for the old life of sin
   2. The life that pleases God is faith (Habakuk 2:4)

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS