

Hebrews 10:19-39

Brown Community Group August 12, 2018

LOGIC

Syllogism

- All men are mortal
- Socrates is a man
- Therefore, Socrates is mortal

This famous syllogism is an example of deductive reasoning. It is made of a major premise(s), minor premise(s) and a conclusion. It is an ironclad argument if two things are present:

1. All premises are true
2. The conclusion necessarily follows the premises

Jesus's use of deductive reasoning:

Matthew 22:41:46 ⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, ⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."

⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Jesus's implied Syllogism:

- The Messiah is David's son (Descendent)
- David calls him Lord
- Therefore, The Messiah is more than a man or son of David

Hebrews is a perfect example of this type of deductive reasoning.

Overview of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-14	Jesus Superior to Angels
Hebrews 2:1-4	Warning to Pay Attention
Hebrews 2:5-18	Jesus Made Fully Human
Hebrews 3:1-6	Jesus Greater than Moses
Hebrews 3:7-19	Warning Against Unbelief
Hebrews 4:1-13	A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God
Hebrews 4:14-5:10	Jesus the Great High Priest
Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Warning Against Falling Away
Hebrews 6:13-20	The Certainty of God's Promise
Hebrews 7:1-10	Melchizedek the Priest
Hebrews 7-11-28	Jesus Like Melchizedek
Hebrews 8:1-12	Jesus is the High Priest of a New Covenant
Hebrews 9:1-10	A Better Sanctuary-Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle
Hebrews 9:11-28	Blood of Christ (Forgiveness, Clean Conscience, a Better Sacrifice)
Hebrews 10:1-18	Christ's Sacrifice Once and for All
Hebrews 10:19-25	Call to Persevere in Faith
Hebrews 10:26-31	Warning of Judgement
Hebrews 10:31-39	Promise of Reward for Diligence

Overview of Hebrews by Category

Jesus Superior to Angels

Warning to Pay Attention

Jesus Made Fully Human

Jesus Greater than Moses

Warning Against Unbelief

A Sabbath-Rest for People of God

Jesus the Great High Priest

Warning Against Falling Away

The Certainty of God's Promise

Melchizedek the Priest

Jesus Like Melchizedek

Jesus is the High Priest

A Better Sanctuary

Blood of Christ

Christ's Sacrifice Once and for All

Call to Persevere in Faith

Warning of Judgement

Promise of Reward for Diligence

Hebrews 9:18¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Hebrews 10:19-25 ¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The underlined words and phrases are mine. They represent the topics covered throughout Hebrews as well as the symbols of Judaism. The double underlined phrase is the conclusion of all the premises in the first 10 chapters. Of course, it could be said in other ways such as “stay true to Jesus and the Christian faith.” It is important to understand what the phrase means by “hope.”

Hope = Confidence = Assurance

Hope and confidence and assurance are used interchangeably in Hebrews, even though today they have different meanings. “Hope” is used 7 times in Hebrews as is “confidence” and “assurance” is used twice. This is more than any other new testament book.

The phrase “not giving up meeting together” does not mean you have to attend every church service, per se. It means that you should meet to encourage one another, however, the best way to do that is at a scheduled meeting of the church.

Warning of Judgement

We don't have to think of a hypothetical situation because the passage was written to the Christians who were moving toward a return to Judaism and placing their salvation at risk. The questions are "what does it mean?" and "does it apply to situations today?" We see it in the "Once Saved Always Saved" vs. the "Falling from Grace" argument. For the sake of discussion, I'll call them Camp 1 and Camp 2. Before moving forward I have a few observations:

1. The real question is "Can a Christian lose their salvation for any reason?"
2. This issue can be divisive and care should be given as well as an open mind.
3. How you believe on this topic is not a salvation issue. It is only one for Christian study.

From a previous week:

Hebrews 6:4-6 ⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

So how does this answer our question? If those that have "shared the Holy Spirit" have "fallen away," that seemingly looks bad for the "Once Saved Always Saved" camp (Camp 1). But wait...wouldn't Peter's denial count as "crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace" and wasn't he brought back to repentance and forgiveness? And chapter 9 promised us forgiveness of sins. Seemingly looks bad for Camp 2. So what IS the answer? See Hebrews 11:

Hebrews 11:6 he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Contrary to popular conversation, the two camps are not diametrically opposed. The two opposite views are that all people will be saved or that any sinner will be condemned. The two camps in question are closer than they believe. They both agree that people should refrain from sinning, it's God's will that all will be saved, all have sinned and fallen short, grace is given to all and is necessary, Jesus died for forgiveness of sins and all people as well as all sins can be forgiven. So what is left? Those that have renounced their faith as these Christians were contemplating.

As William Lane Craig said, "God doesn't *send* anybody to hell. His desire is that everyone be saved, and He seeks to draw all persons to Himself. If we make a free and well-informed decision to reject Christ's sacrifice for our sin, then God has no choice but to give us what we deserve. God will not send us to hell – but we shall send ourselves."

Or, as C. S. Lewis said, "The gates of hell are locked from the inside."

So, really, both camps are correct. Camp 1 is correct that you cannot lose your salvation, no matter how much you sin. Grace is always available to you, just as it was to Peter. Camp 2 is correct that there is a point when even a Christian can fall, but that point is not determined by quality or quantity of sin, but rather by the decision to reject Christ and his grace, just as these Jews were facing. Both camps have the assurance of their own salvation.

Hebrews 10:26-31 ²⁶If 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 someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, 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.

Promise of Reward for Diligence

Note: it is thought that these Jews had experienced persecution and had property confiscated as a result of their new beliefs.

Hebrews 10:32-39 ³²Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”^[f]

³⁸And, “But my righteous^[g] one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”^[h]

³⁹But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

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1. How do you feel about the gospel being logical? Does it dilute the emotion or does it enhance your resolve? Can you think of other places or books in the Bible where logic prevails?
 2. What do you think about the quote “The gates of hell are locked from the inside.” Do you agree or disagree? Why would anyone want to go to hell?
 3. Put yourself in these Jews’ shoes. How would you feel about your traditions being called “inferior.” What would it take to convince you? How much harder does the persecution make it?