

"If we sin willfully..."

Sin is defined in the context in the limited sense of defiant rebellion against the truth of the gospel previously acknowledged by the one who received it.

SCHREINER: "Sinning deliberately doesn't refer to any and every sin committed. The author has in mind apostasy, the rejection of the Christian faith. Those who repent of their evil demonstrate that they aren't guilty of the apostasy warned against here."

This willful sin is compared with "despising Moses' law" [v. 28]

This is not the first (or the last) comparison the author has made to Moses' law: 2:2 -3; 4:2; 12:15]

"despised" or "disregard" = blatant outright rebellion, not merely a violation

Such disregard for Moses' law was the final step in apostasy for an Israelite and the punishment was severe: "died without mercy" Deuteronomy 13:6-9; 17:2-7; Numbers 15:30-31

The Rebellion of Korah: Numbers 16

The "sin" here is more fully described in 10:29:

- *Trodden underfoot the Son of God*

Pink notes the name used here: "Son of God," the name of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity: "Backsliding and apostasy is a treating of the Lord of glory with the utmost contempt."

To trod underfoot is "a scornful spurning of an object as a thing that is worthless." (Matthew 7:6)

- *Counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing*

"The blood of the covenant" has in view the office of our great high priest and the sacrifice he offered in the execution of that office.

Three interpretations of "*wherewith he was sanctified:*"

1. "he" refers to the professing believer who has apostatized
2. "he" refers to the Son of God in the "sanctifying" or setting Him apart for His office as Savior [compare Hebrews 5:5-10]
3. "he" should be translated "it" and refers to the covenant (see 9:18-23)

"an unholy thing" = common or profane; blood that is no different than any other blood

Remember everything the author has said the blood of Jesus has accomplished: 9:12, 14, 25-26; 10:19; 10:29

Imagine counting that blood as waste – something to be thrown out like a menstrual cloth.

- *Done despite unto the Spirit of grace*

Pink: "It is by the Spirit the Christian was regenerated, enlightened, convicted, and brought to Christ. It is by the Spirit the Christian is led and fed, taught and sanctified. What reverence is due him as a Divine person! How dreadful the sin then that treats him with insolence..."

Stuart Olyott: "It is important for us to see that the apostle is here talking about **professing** Christians who then forsake the faith, treat it as a lie, and trample on what they once held dear. He is not talking about the sins and failures that all Christians experience...but it is an unspeakably awful thing to know the truth, to embrace it, to have true experiences of the Holy Spirit, but then to loosen your grip, to slip away, and finally to **deliberately turn away** from the Lord." [emphasis mine]