

Hebrews Ch. 6

V.1-2

-All that was discussed in at the end of chapter 5 was a there to set up the instructions that will be given next

-this may be a sensitive subject for some people but it is very important

-there seems to be a mentality that permeates a large portion of the western church today

-people seem to be more than content only knowing the elementary teachings of the bible and their Christian faith

-Overall, the church knows about the basic Christian teachings like the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and that non believers go to hell

-but those teachings are the foundation of your spiritual life, not the extent of it

-somewhere between 70-80 % of Americans claim to be Christians

-yet according to a CBN article, this is the most biblically illiterate culture in history

-60% of Americans can't name the four gospels or half of the 10 commandments

-80% believe that "God helps those who help themselves" is a direct quote from the bible

-According to a Barna survey, most self-proclaimed Christians don't even believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit actually exist

-is it any wonder that our culture is falling apart at the seams?

-if we have no desire to know the truths beyond basic salvation, how can we possibly know how to oppose homosexuality or gay marriage

-or how can we argue that abortion is wrong or that premarital sex goes against God's will?

-how can we give a good answer to the questions our kids come home with from school and Sunday school?

-**Amo 8:11** "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

Amo 8:12 "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*.

Amo 8:13 "In that day the beautiful virgins And the young men will faint from thirst.

- notice that the beautiful virgins and the young men are affected the most
- and the sad result of a famine is that people will begin to eat anything
- whether it is healthy food or toxic, they will take whatever is available to fill the hunger they have
- it is the same way with the Word
 - if the true, complete Word of God isn't being preached or taught, then they will turn to whatever is out there to fill that void
 - whether it is false teachings from the bible or a false religion all together, people will fill their spiritual emptiness with something

V.3-6

- This is a very difficult and often debated portion of scripture
 - There are several issues that need to be addressed
 - can you lose your salvation?
 - can you regain your salvation if you do lose it?
 - or is the author talking about something rather than salvation?
 - can you lose your salvation?
 - some would say no
 - if you take just a select few verses you can make a decent case that once you are saved, you can never be lost again
- Joh 10:29** "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Act 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age

- although these verses can be taken to mean that you can't lose your salvation, I think it's easy to show how that is not the case
 - it's true that no one can snatch us out of the Father's hand, but we have the free will to get out on our own if we choose
 - to believe in Him is much more than to believe He exists
 - even the demons believe and they will not be saved

-the word “believe” means to entrust your spiritual well being to Him

-yes we have been saved by grace and our salvation is a free gift, but it is up to us to decide if we want the gift and what we will do with it

-and of course Jesus will be with us to the end of the age, but again, we have the free will to go a different direction if we choose

-so can you lose your salvation?

-**Heb 10:26** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Heb 10:27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

2Pe 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

Luk 12:42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

Luk 12:43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

Luk 12:44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Luk 12:45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, *both* men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

Luk 12:46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

-So then, our main question in Hebrews 6:4-6 is “can you regain your salvation if you stray from God?”

- **Jas 5:19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

Jas 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

-If you can't, then the entire parable of the prodigal son doesn't fit in the bible

-this story is completely about a son that goes leaves his father, repents and his father takes him back with open arms

Luk 15:11 And He said, "A man had two sons.

Luk 15:12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

Luk 15:13 "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

Luk 15:14 "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

Luk 15:15 "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

Luk 15:16 "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him.

Luk 15:17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!

Luk 15:18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight;

Luk 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

Luk 15:20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luk 15:21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luk 15:22 "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet;

Luk 15:23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

Luk 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

-So then these verses must be referring to something besides salvation

-I think the answer may be in the following two verses:

V.7-8

Heb 6:7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;

Heb 6:8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

-look what type of Christian it is describing in v.4-5

those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come

-and then having fallen away

-these are people who have had a very deep, personal, intimate relationship with God

-once someone like this falls away into a sinful lifestyle, I believe there is so much guilt that all they can do is look at Hebrews 10:26:

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins

-and it is true that it is impossible for us to renew them to repentance, God can do it

-Luk 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

-it may be a painful process and God will likely do some major work in that person's life, but they are not beyond His reach

-that's why once his life starts yielding thorns and thistles instead of fruit, God has to just burn it all and start over

-the burning does not signify his eternal destination

V.9-10

-Our salvation has benefits besides being saved from hell

-some people may think that it is unfair that people who live a bad life and get saved on their deathbed go to the same heaven as people who have faithfully served God for 50 years

-we do go to the same heaven, but receive different rewards when we get there

-when we get to heaven, God will reward us for everything that was done for Him

Mat 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

-and everything that was done selfishly or that we did with the wrong motivation will be lost

1Co 3:12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

1Co 3:13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

-yes, they will both be saved, but one receives many rewards in heaven while the other does not

-we may think that all we are concerned about is making it to heaven

-as great as that will be, once we get there, we will be very glad for the rewards we have accumulated

-and God is such a generous God that we don't even have to do that much to earn rewards

-I believe since He is love and is such a giver, He will find any excuse He can to reward His children

V.11-12

-there is a big difference between people who are diligent about their faith and those who are sluggish

-people who are sluggish about their faith tend to not want to do anything for the kingdom of God

-all they want to do is the bare minimum to get to heaven

-they see God like a high school diploma

-they know it is something that they need but they aren't going to get excited about it

-so just like high school, all they are concerned about is keeping a passing grade so they can reap the reward at the end

-those who are diligent about their faith are just the opposite

-they have a deep love for God and realize how much better their life is with Him than without Him

-they take full advantage of His promises and blessings and set it as their priority to live for Him

-And instead of just trying to keep a passing grade, the diligent person makes it their goal to graduate at the top of their class because they understand that this will greatly improve their quality of life

-if you look at the heroes of faith, none of them were sluggish in their faith

-even though they weren't without sin and problems, they were completely sold out for God and would have never considered just using Him as an eternal security blanket

V.13-15

-When people wanted to make a covenant, they would swear by a higher authority to make their point

-the word "swear" is not the same word we use today

-today it refers to using bad language

-then it meant "to make an oath"

-and since there is no higher power than God, He makes the oath with Himself

-by doing a casual reading of the bible, we tend to think that things happened pretty quickly

-that people prayed and God answered, that people asked and God delivered

-notice it said Abraham waited patiently

-The first time God promised offspring to Abraham was in Gen. 12:2

Gen 12:2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Gen 12:4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

-but it wasn't until Gen. 21:5 that God delivered on His promise

Gen 21:5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

-Abraham waited 25 years!

-granted, Him and Sarah got impatient and tried to rush God but the point is that God keeps His promises

-this is hard for us to grasp in our "microwave" culture

-we expect results immediately

-we act like we don't have the time to wait on God

-we have been conditioned to think that if God doesn't answer our prayer within a few hours that He either didn't hear us or that the answer is "no"

-how often do we mist God's best for us because we get impatient and settle for something else?

V.16-18

-When Abraham and Abimelech had a dispute about land and wells that were dug, they settled their dispute with a covenant where they swore by the Lord

Gen 21:22 Now it came about at that time that Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do;

Gen 21:23 now therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my offspring or with my posterity, but according to the kindness that I have shown to you, you shall show to me and to the land in which you have sojourned."

Gen 21:24 Abraham said, "I swear it."

Gen 21:31 Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an oath.

Gen 21:32 So they made a covenant at Beersheba; and Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, arose and returned to the land of the Philistines.

-After that, the issue was completely resolved

-in the same way, God wants us to know that what He has promised to His children, He will deliver

-Since God is completely unchangeable, it is impossible for Him to lie

-therefore, we never have to worry if what He says is true

-we can confidently take hold of the truth that He has done all that is necessary for our salvation

-all we need to do is to accept it by faith

V.19-20

-through the thousands of years of the history of mankind, things have changed dramatically

-from population to culture, construction practices, technology and family values

-the one thing that has not changed over the generations is the Word of God

-this is the one constant that God has given us to anchor our society

-as long as people hold to the truths of the bible, they can weather all other changes in life

-but sadly, our culture has decided to cut loose of the anchor and is now adrift

-the evidence of this is that there is no longer any absolute truth to base anything on

-people now decide what is right based on their own judgment

-**Pro 12:15** The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

-without the Word of God as a foundation and anchor for society, everything is acceptable

-gay marriage, abortion, infidelity, lying, stealing and on and on

-The veil was what divided the holy place from the Holy of Holies in the temple

-this was the closest anyone could get to a physical location of the presence of God

-only the high priest was allowed to go behind the veil into the holy of holies once a year to atone for sins of the people

-the moment Jesus died on the cross, that veil was torn in two and access was granted to everyone to enter into the presence of God

Mat 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Mat 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

-no longer do we have to wait on a high priest to atone for our sins once a year

-Jesus is the Perfect High Priest who has atoned for our sins once and for all that now we may boldly go before the presence of God

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.