

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED

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SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 16, 2022

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 6:1-4**

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

1. BACKGROUND

Please refer to the January 16, 2022 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we will analyze **Hebrews 6:1-6, Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God. 2: Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3: And this will we do, if God permit. 4: For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. 5: And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. 6: If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**
- b. **This chapter contains one of the most difficult passages for Bible scholars to interpret.**
- c. Many Bible Scholars, when they come to this passage will completely bypass it just like it is not a part of the Preserved Word of God. I have asked the Lord to open this passage to my understanding so I will be able to explain it to you. I truly believe the Holy Spirit has given me the key to this passage of Scripture.
- d. One of the things we must realize as we study the Word of God is that no passage of Scripture is of any private interpretation. **2 Peter 1:20, Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**
- e. There has been much error and much confusion concerning this passage of Scripture. **1 Corinthians 14:33, For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
- f. I ask you to lay aside your preconceived notions or what you have been taught and let's open the Preserved Word of God today and see if we can glean the truth of what God intends for us to understand from this passage. First of all, we must deal with the word "**enlightened**" we must not miss the fact that it is an adjective which means to be informed, to be aware of, to be educated with and to be knowledgeable, just to name a few. In no case does it mean possession or salvation. According to the King James 1611 dictionary it means to illuminate with divine knowledge, or a knowledge of the truth.
- g. **As we approach this passage, we know there is no way that one can lose their salvation because there are many Scriptures that indicate otherwise. Let's reflect on a selective few of the many Psalms 37:28, For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever; but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. John 18:9, That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. John 10:27-28, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. Romans 8:38-39, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ**

Jesus our Lord. 1 Peter 1:3-5, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- h. We also know there is no contradiction or conflict in the Preserved Word of God when it is rightly divided. In view of the aforementioned verses, one must conclude that once saved always saved and according to **1 Peter 1:5, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** Our salvation is guaranteed by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- i. We must seek the mind of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. **John 16:13, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**
- j. As we examine the overall purpose of this book, we conclude that it is two-fold in its intent.
 - 1. **First**, it is to show the Jewish Christians that Judaism had come to an end through the fulfillment of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 - a. There are a series of contrasts in the **Book of Hebrews** concerning Judaism and better things in Christ.
 - b. There is no question that in earlier chapters it mentions that Christ is indeed better than angels, better than Moses, better than Joshua, Aaron, and the new covenant is better than the Mosaic Covenant.
 - 2. The author also had a **second** purpose in mind as he was guided by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. It has a direct impact on what we will study today.
 - b. There was an ever-present danger of the Jewish professing believers of either lapsing back into Judaism or pausing short of true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c. The Bible indicates that we must know Him. **John 14:17, Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**
 - d. **We cannot only know about Him we have to know who He is. Philippians 3:10, That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**
 - 1. Apollos was very strong and mighty in the Scriptures; however, he knew the Old Testament well but had not heard of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. As a result of that, he had only heard of John's baptism. **Acts 18:25, This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. Acts 19:3, And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.**
 - e. Jewish professing believers were guilty of mingling law and grace; of Judaism and Christianity and Paul is warning them to stay out of that, especially trying to be comingling the two.
 - f. **Acts 21:18-24**, speaks to this particular issue. **And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. 19: And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. 20: And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: 21: And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. 22: What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. 23: Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; 24: Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.**
- k. With that Introduction, let's approach the passage of Scripture under consideration with the purpose of this book in our mind.

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.

1. **Hebrews 6:1, Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,**
2. With our purpose in mind, from the introduction, let's dissect this verse and see what we can glean from God's Word.
3. **"Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ,"** - literally means leaving the basics; the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
4. **"Let us go on unto perfection;"** - simply means we must start building on the foundation which Christ has laid; gold, silver, and precious stone.
5. **The challenge every believer has, is to be prepared for the difficult trip through our Christian life.**
6. Peter has emphatically told us we must add to our faith virtue and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance. **2 Peter 1:5-9, And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**
7. We are to be conformed to the image of God's Son. **Romans 8:28-29, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**
8. **"Unto perfection;"** - perfection in Scripture simply means maturity in Christ.
9. Which is nothing more than saturating our minds and hearts with the Preserved Word of God.
10. In the Christian life, because of the sin factor, we can never arrive; we are always on a journey.
11. This is the reason why I challenge members of Chesswood Baptist Church to stay in the Preserved Word of God daily.
12. It is not sufficient to just receive it on Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, and Wednesday Night.
13. A program of self-study will indeed give us progress if we saturate our minds and our hearts with the Preserved Word of God and keep the old nature under control. It is for this reason that we provide an extensive set of notes and outlines for both our messages and bible studies. It gives you a tool to enhance your understanding for the Preserved Word of God.
14. We are to be molded in the image and likeness of the precious Son of God. **Romans 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** The notes and outlines will aid in the renewal of your mind.
15. The flesh is not converted when we get saved; the lust of flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life are all still there when we receive Christ as our Saviour. The new birth does not cause a believer to be perfect in the flesh.
16. **We must feed the new nature with the Preserved Word of God.**
17. We will see foundational facts in the Old Testament are mentioned as we analyze this particular passage. **"not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works,"**
18. As we look at this in some detail, we will find repentance from dead works simply means this is the work of the Mosaic Law.
19. The Jewish professing believers tended to want to continue to keep the law.
20. The Bible says in **Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
21. This theory is very prevalent today in religious groups.
22. We want to get people saved and immediately we want to put them under the law with do's and don'ts to keep themselves saved.
23. The Bible says when we are saved we are free from the law. **Romans 8:2, For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**
24. Notice another Old Testament phrase: **"faith toward God,"**
25. People in the Old Testament were taught faith toward God.

26. To say you believe in God **doesn't** mean you have been converted. **James 2:19, Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.**
27. The Old Testament ritual presents a faith toward God by approaching Him through the Temple sacrifices and not through Christ the High Priest.

b. Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands.

1. **Hebrews 6:2-3, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3: And this will we do, if God permit.**
2. This doctrine of baptism has nothing to do with the ordinance that God gave to the local church to baptize believers.
3. They were referring to the washing and rituals of the Old Testament set forth at the brazen laver which was a part of the Tabernacle.
4. The Hebrew believers wanted to return to those rituals which were only a shadow of the things which were to come.
5. It was a negative, from which the spiritual picture was developed.
6. These things prefigured the Lord Jesus Christ, but now we have a High Priest who has paid the sin debt for mankind, and He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercessions for every believer.
7. The laying on of hands was another Old Testament ritual.
8. When men brought the sacrifices as they did with the scapegoat, the sinner was identified with the animal by the laying on of hands on the head of the goat.
9. The goat was then released and sent into an uninhabited wilderness, never to be heard from again.
10. The second animal took the sinners place on the altar of sacrifice.
11. We will read all of these verses because it is so important for us to understand.
 - a. **Leviticus 16:5-11, And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. 6: And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. 7: And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 8: And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9: And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the Lord's lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10: But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the Lord, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. 11: And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:**
 - b. **Leviticus 16:14-16, And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. 15: Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins; and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.**
 - c. **Leviticus 16:18-22, And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the Lord, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19: And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. 20: And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.**

12. **"Resurrection of the dead,"** - This is taught in the Old Testament but now they need to come to the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
13. The Living Christ was resurrected the third day, ascended into heaven and presented His blood at the Throne of God. **John 11:25-26, Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**
14. **"Eternal judgment."** - This is also taught in the Old Testament and means that at some point in time the Judge will do His job, which is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.
15. God the Father has indicated He has committed all judgment unto the Son. **John 5:22, For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**
16. All will be judged either at the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers or the Great White Throne Judgment for unbelievers.

c. For it impossible for those who were once enlightened.

1. **Hebrews 6:4, For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,**
2. We must be careful not to conclude that this verse has to do with saved individuals.
3. **"for those who were once enlightened"** simply means to be awakened. We dealt with this word enlightened extensively during the Introduction please refer to it for proper context.
 - a. Before a conversion can take place, a person must realize their lost condition.
 - b. If you are lost and do not know you are lost, then salvation means little or nothing to you.
 - c. We realize our lost condition when we truly understand the following Scriptures.
 1. **Romans 3:23,** which says, **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**
 2. **Ecclesiastes 7:20, For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.**
 3. **Psalms 51:5, Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.**
 4. **Isaiah 64:6, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**
 5. **Romans 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.**
 - d. When we are enlightened and awakened by the Holy Spirit to our lost condition, then **Romans 6:23,** fits appropriately. **For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**
4. Those of you who remember Apollos know he had been enlightened, as a matter of fact he was mighty in the Scriptures, but he stopped short of knowing and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour because he knew only John's baptism. **Acts 18:24-26, And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25: This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26: And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**
5. **"And having tasted of the heavenly gift."**
 - a. I believe with all my heart there were both saved and lost people in the area when these words were spoken.
 - b. They were able to taste the heavenly gift which is the free gift of God's grace for believing the record He has given of His son.
 - c. We must always remember to not only taste, but we must appropriate and digest the Word of God; we must accept Jesus as our personal Saviour. **1 John 5:11-12,** tells us, **And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. John 6:50, This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. John 6:51, I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:58, This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.**

- d. **Hebrews 4:5**, says, *And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. God has opened our eyes today concerning this passage.
- b. Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour? If you don't today is your day of salvation.
- c. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. The Word of God says in **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. **Come to Jesus today for salvation. Come to Him and be saved.**
- g. Please stand.

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