

Challenging Chapters of the Bible

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Hebrews 6:1-3

1 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds[a] and placing our faith in God. 2 You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

Hebrews 6:1-3

- **We now enter what is arguably the most debated section of the New Testament and one that has caused whole groups of believers to part company. (that will not happen here)**
- **The long debate over whether you can lose your salvation or not always seems to end up here simply because it is one passage that most pointedly indicates that it can be lost.**

Hebrews 6:1-3

- **The official position of Christian Life Assembly is that you can lose your salvation, but not easily.**
- **You can lose it by deliberately turning away from Christ, not by committing some certain sin or by committing some certain number of sins. There is simply no remedy for unbelief.**
- **This much is certain, if this argument has not been settled in 2,000 years then it's probably one that has strong evidence on both sides so we should be careful to be less than dogmatic.**

Hebrews 6:1-3

- Two possible scenarios for this section are:
 - **1, This is a strong warnings to Christians that if you deliberately turn away from Christ that you will lose your salvation, or**
 - **2, This is a strong warning to Christians that if you do not go on to maturity in Christ that you effectively discredit Christ by your life.**

Hebrews 6:1-3

- **Just as the writer called out the Hebrews in chapter 5 for being disinterested and 'dull' of hearing he continues here in the same vein.**
- **He is saying that if you want to go on to maturity that we need to have new priorities in our relationship with God.**
- **It can no longer be 'good enough' to just be saved, but we must go on so that God can fully use us.**

Hebrews 6:1-3

- **There are few things in life more pathetic than a Christian who has never moved on with so great a salvation.**
- **If we are not growing in Christ then how do we ever expect to be used more fully by Him?**
- **I would love to have some of my years back to put to better use, but life doesn't work that way. 'Today if you will hear'. Today is all we really have that we can count on so press on now.**

Hebrews 6: 4-6

4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6

- **As I said earlier, this is a strong warning to Christians whether it's 'Be careful, you can lose it' or it's 'Press on, or Christ is discredited by your testimony'.**
- **It's serious, it's somber, and so strongly worded that we must pay heed and know that we are being warned.**
- **The point is that if you know God then you have a responsibility to develop a relationship with Him.**
- **In fact, if you have no desire to know Him more, then what is it that you can point to as proof that you ever believed at all?**

Hebrews 6:4-6

- **This much is certain, if we fall into the category of;**
 - **Being enlightened**
 - **Tasting the heavenly gift**
 - **Partaking of the Holy Spirit**
 - **Tasting the good word of God and His power**
- **Then we had better do something with our spiritual lives.**
- **If we move on in Christ, we need not worry whether we can lose our salvation or not because He is the Author of eternal salvation to them who obey.**

Hebrews 6:4-6

- **I am very much aware that we did not settle the 'can you lose it or not' question, but that was intentional.**
- **I did try to be clear on the position of this church and to be honest if I were going to err on one side or the other it would be on the side of 'you can lose it'. It's usually a spiritually healthier position.**
- **However, you can make the issue totally moot for you by staying close to Jesus and continuing to obey Him. Then it will not matter whether one can or can't lose it; you won't.**

Hebrews 6:7-8

7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. 8 But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it.

Hebrews 6:7-8

- **These verses seem to echo something that Jesus said about fruit in Math 7:17-19, and again in John 15:2-4.**
- **If God is at work in us it will show up in our lives; any other kind of faith is just a mind game.**
- **If God has given us a new life and sent refreshing water (the Holy Spirit) upon us, then we have a responsibility to live for Him and like Him.**
- **There are consequences for trifling with the things of God.**

Hebrews 6:9-12

9 Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. **10** For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, [b] as you still do. **11** Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. **12** Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

Hebrews 6:9-12

- **The writer now tries to build up their confidence that they really are saved. There is a tendency on our part to fret over losing our salvation so he wanted to point out that they are on track.**
- **He tells them that it's obvious by their works that they have not turned away.**
- **It was clear to the writer that they were in a safe condition and had nothing to fear; they were doing the very things that do accompany salvation.**
- **For those in the audience who had not trusted Christ it provides a test for them; do your works speak of faith?**

Hebrews 6:9-12

- **So what are the things that accompany salvation?**
 - **Ministry to others.**
 - **Labors of love, not just labors (works).**
 - **A zeal for God and His things.**
 - **Perseverance in the things of God.**

Hebrews 6:9-12

- **Verse #12 in particular points us to a 'finish line' approach to life.**
- **A successful Christian life is one that understands that what we do now translates into eternal rewards and not necessarily temporal ones.**
- **This verse also speaks of the need to set good and godly examples for those that follow us.**

Hebrews 6:13-20

13 For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

14 "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number." **15** Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised. **16** Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. **17** God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. **18** So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. **19** This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. **20** Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Inheriting the Promises

Hebrews 6:13-20

- **In Genesis 15 we are told how God made promises to Abraham. (Gen 15:1-21)**
- **It is impossible for God to lie so when He makes a promise it not only 'will' be kept, but it 'must' be kept.**
- **Part of God's promise to Abraham includes a messiah redeemer to come.**

Inheriting the Promises

Hebrews 6:13-20

- **Notice also where Jesus is; He has entered into the holy place beyond the veil as our great high priest.**
- **This would have even greater significance to the Jewish reader of the letter than it does to us.**
- **The very fact that He is our 'forerunner' is a promise in itself. He could only be our forerunner if we are to follow and He has made us a kingdom of priests who are able to enter into God's presence based upon our relationship with Christ.**

Inheriting the Promises

Hebrews 6:13-20

- **Not to be lost in all of this is the fact that Jesus was a better priest of a better priesthood.**
- **The Levitical priests entered behind the veil of the earthly tabernacle, whereas Jesus entered behind the veil of the heavenly tabernacle.**
- **The old covenant always pointed towards someone and something better.**

Inheriting the Promises

Hebrews 6:13-20

- **It is the hope that God will keep His word that we have to anchor our souls.**
- **An anchor stabilizes and keeps us in a safe place despite storms and waves.**
- **If life seems to bounce us around perhaps we need to get closer to the anchor as the shorter the rope, the greater the stability.**

Truths that Transform

- All of the blood and death in the O.T. sacrificial system were to point us to Christ.
- The humanity of Jesus had to develop and grow, surely we too need development.
- When we have options do we choose God's way or do we only trust Him when we have to?
- If we do not grow in Christ and adorn the gospel, then what good are we?
- If fretting over losing your salvation has you like a deer caught in headlights, stop it and move on with Christ. It's the best assurance you can have.

Questions