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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

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,

6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6:6 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.

- What a sobering passage!
- There is an awful possibility.
- And what causes that possibility?

- Many try to make this person someone who is truly not a Christian somehow.
- But this will not work for two reasons.

- The first reason is
the description will not allow it.
- This is a Christian who has:
 - Been enlightened,
 - Tasted the heavenly gift,
 - Shared in the Holy Spirit,
- Tasted the goodness of God's word
and the powers of the age to come.
 - The description
will not allow that this is
a fake Christian.

- The second reason is
that the writer
is offering a warning.

- The writer is not
talking to people
outside of the church.

- He is talking to the people
in the pews.

- How do we know?

- **He just told them:**
 - That they are **dull of hearing,**
- Need to **leave** behind the elementary teachings of Christ,
- And **press on** to maturity.

- As startling as it is to see that someone who has enjoyed the blessings of God could fall away,
- It is more startling to hear what the author declares in verse 6.
- That it is impossible to restore this person to repentance.

- He is writing to Christians and offering another warning, as he has throughout this book.

- These are people who were genuinely converted but then have fallen away.

- This is not a new teaching in the book of Hebrews.
- The author warned back in Hebrews 3:12 about the wilderness generation:
 - Who saw the miracles
 - Experienced God's deliverance
 - But had an evil, unbelieving heart leading them to fall away from the Lord.

- And why would Paul warn the brethren of such danger were it not possible?
- It is possible to be “enlightened” and still be in the dark.
- Such was the case of Simon the Magician.
(**Acts 8**).

- Some are like the man Jesus healed.

- **Mark 8:24**

*And he looked up, and said,
I see men as trees, walking.*

- **8:25** *After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.*

- They have become also partakers of the Holy Ghost,
- Not merely within the range of His influence,
- But actually shared it;
 - All of the Apostles had received the Holy Spirit.
(**John 20:22-23**)
- This included Judas.

- Why would Paul warn Christians about falling away if it was not possible.
- The Galatian brethren were warned:

- Galatians 5:4

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; you are fallen from grace.

- Brethren were warned in the Revelation letter regarding their “candlestick” being removed. (**Rev 2-3**).

- Apostle Paul warned of being “castaway”.

• **1Co 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that you may obtain.

9:25 And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beats the air:

9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- 2 Peter 2:20

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

- **If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death,**
 - **he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death.**
 - **There is sin that leads to death;**
- **I do not say that one should pray for that.**
- **All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.**

(1 John 5:16–17 ESV)

- **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,**
- **but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**
- **For to set the mind on the flesh is death,**
 - **but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**
- **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.**
(Romans 8:5–7 ESV)

- **“You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD:
When men fall, do they not rise again?
• If one turns away, does he not return?
• Why then has this people turned away in
perpetual backsliding?
 - They hold fast to deceit;
 - They refuse to return.
 - I have paid attention and listened,
but they have not spoken rightly;
 - No man relents of his evil, saying,
‘What have I done?’**
- **Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse
plunging headlong into battle.”**
(Jeremiah 8:4–6 ESV)

- You will notice that God addressed the same problem with Jeremiah regarding Israel in his day.
 - They also have fallen.
- But if that person turns away, he/she can return.

- Why does Israel continue to remain in this lost condition of perpetual backsliding?
- They hold fast to their deceit.
 - They refuse to return.
 - When you “will not” you cannot!

- The intention of the author is not to cause Christians to wonder if they are saved.
- The warning is that if we do not move on to maturity, there is a danger of falling back.

- **The Christian** does not sin once and is lost forever.
- There is a **process** of falling away.
 - It begins with spiritual **laziness** and **apathy**.
 - It begins by staying in the **milk** and not progressing to the **meat** of the scriptures.

- The Situation Illustrated
(**Hebrews 6:7-8**)
- Now the author is going to illustrate this truth
 - So we can see why, for those who have fallen away, it is impossible to bring them to repentance.

- The land drinks in the rain that falls on it.
- The land that produces a useful crop receives a blessing from God.
- However, the land that receives the rain but bears thorns and thistles is worthless, receives a curse, and will be burned in the end.

- The picture is simple.

- **Fruitfulness**

receives a **blessing** from God
but thorn and thistles
receive a **curse**.

- **You will know**

the kind of ground
your heart is
by the fruit produced.

- **Our Hope**
(**Hebrews 6:9-12**)
- Now the author has confidence that these Christians **will heed his warning** and move forward in Christ, growing in the Lord.

- **Listen to the second hope**
he gives in **verse 10**.
- **God is not unjust**
to not see their
work and **love**
that they have shown.
- **God sees our fruit**.
- God **knows** what
we are trying to do.

- In light of such warning,
what shall we do?

- Let us think
about Christ
as
the **Apostle** and **High Priest.**

- It will serve to
increase our faith in him.

- It will make us all more **humble**, more **prayerful**,
- And more earnest in our endeavors to ***"live soberly, and righteously, and godly."***
(Titus 2:12)

- How very different would be
both the Church
and the world today.
 - How many of those
that are now eternally lost,
might today be rejoicing
“*among the spirits of
the just made perfect.*”
(**Hebrews 12:23**)

- **Let us not forget**
- The Church of God is the house of God, as it is written,
***"I will dwell in them,
and walk in them;
and I will be their God,
and they shall be
my people."***
(2 Cor. 6:16.)

- Why, then, do we not draw nigh to him *who has come so very near to us?* (Hebrews 10:22)

- Why not, like Enoch and Moses, walk with him, *as seeing him who is invisible?* (Hebrews 11:27)

- Why not avoid everything that is offensive in his sight, such as the *lusts of the flesh*, *the lusts of the eye*, *and the pride of life*?
(1 John 2:16)

- And why not,
like Christ,
humbly endeavor
to do the will of God
in all things?
(**Hebrews 10:7**)

- Surely this is but
our highest happiness,
as it is also our most
reasonable service.
(**Romans 12:1**)

- With such warnings and admonitions before us it is all folly to rely for happiness on the imaginary and prevalent doctrine of

“Once saved, always saved.”

“He that endures to the end shall be saved.”

(**Matthew 10:22.**)

- It is not enough that we have confessed Christ, and that we have been actually washed from our past sins in his blood.
 - We must also continue to persevere in well-doing,
 - seeking for honor,
 - and glory,
 - and immortality,
- if we would enjoy eternal life.
(Romans 2:7.)

- ***"For if we sin willfully,
after that we have received
the knowledge of the truth,
there remains
no more
sacrifice for sins."
(Hebrews 10:26.)***

- ***"Let him that thinks
he stands,
take heed lest he fall."
(1 Cor. 10:12.)***

- Our greatest want
has always been
a want of faith in God
and in the word of his grace
(**Hebrews 6:18-19**).
- It was a lack of faith
that first brought sin
into the world.
(**Gen. 3:6.**)

- **It was a lack of faith**
that filled
the antediluvian earth
with violence,
and brought in
a flood of waters
on the ungodly.
(**Genesis 6**)

- **It was a lack of faith**
that brought down
fire and brimstone from Heaven
on **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**,
and made these
cities of the plain
a monument of
God's hatred of sin.
(**Genesis 13**)

- **It was a lack of faith**
that brought down
God's judgments
on his own chosen people
in the wilderness and in Canaan,
 - And that has made
their descendants
a **proverb** and a **byword**
in every nation under Heaven.
(**Deuteronomy 28:37**)

- And it will be **a lack of faith** that will shut the gates of Heaven against millions who will seek to enter into God's rest **when it is too late.**
(**Luke 13:24-30.**)

- No wonder, then,
that our blessed Savior
sums up all sin
under the head of unbelief.

- "***When he
the Comforter
is come,
he will convict
the world of sin,
because they
believe not on me.***"
(John 16:9.)

- ***Let us all beware,
lest there be also
in any of us
an evil heart
of unbelief
in apostatizing
from the living God.
(Hebrews 3:12)***

- **Our lesson for today**

speaks of those

- who had been

highly privileged,

- But who

did not

improve their opportunities,

but wretchedly

perverted them.

- Who had brought **shame** and **reproach** on the cause of Christ;
- And who were in such a hopeless condition that it was **"impossible to renew them again unto repentance."**

- Well does it become each one of us to earnestly lift up his/her heart to God, beseeching Him to prevent us making *such a shipwreck of the faith.* (1 Timothy 1:19)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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