

Hebrews

Chapter 6, Part 2

- I. Introduction
 - a. In our previous message, the writer of Hebrews issued quite a serious warning to the readers of this epistle
 - i. That is, those that live and walk as and among believers for some length of time only to then turn around in opposition to Christianity are impossible “*to restore again to repentance*” (**vs. 6**)
 - 1. Without a doubt, this was quite a stern warning to a group that was being tempted to return to Judaism
 - a. However, it’s also quite a warning to any that would leave the faith for another “religion”
 - b. Today’s message continues with the passage
 - i. However, there is some comfort issued in the passage before us today
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 9-12**
 - i. We must remember that this book is written to a mixed group of people
 - 1. It appears, most were saved
 - 2. Some were merely professors without true faith
 - a. These were sure to ultimately leave the faith and return to Judaism
 - 3. Some were lost and had never been convinced at all that Jesus was the Messiah
 - ii. Though the writer has issued a stern warning, he is confident of the salvation of many (if not most) in this congregation
 - 1. He said “*we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation*”
 - a. That is, he didn’t believe the majority of the readers were false professors like he had described in the previous passage
 - b. He didn’t expect a great falling away of the majority of this church
 - c. He had witnessed “*better things*” of this church
 - i. He had witnessed “*things that belong to salvation*”
 - ii. He had seen the fruit of the Spirit among these people
 - 1. It was Jesus that instructed us to be fruit inspectors (**Matthew 12:33-37**)
 - 2. The key to bearing much fruit is to abide in Jesus (**John 15:1-11**)
 - a. Since the lost do not abide in Jesus, they will not bear good fruit for long
 - i. But these saints had
 - iii. God is a just God
 - 1. He doesn’t overlook the work of His children
 - a. He is just to remember and reward faithful service

- iv. These people had worked in serving the saints in love
 - 1. Our call is to love one another (**John 13:35**)
 - 2. The saints at Thessalonica were commended for their “*labor of love*” (**1 Thessalonians 1:3**)
 - a. This is a distinguishing mark of regenerated people
 - i. And thus, the writer here affirms his assurance of the salvation of these people because they had this mark
 - 3. John spoke of love as a distinguishing mark of regeneration (**1 John 4:7**)
 - a. He also says the lack of love for the brethren is a distinguishing mark of a false profession (**1 John 4:20**)
 - 4. They had not only done this in the past, they were still doing it
- v. He instructs these to persevere in their labor of love
 - 1. There is no instruction in grace that negates good works
 - a. We were prepared and saved for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**)
 - 2. Working out one’s salvation takes diligence (**2 Peter 3:14**)
 - a. The peace and assurance which accompany salvation are not attained without effort on our part
 - i. The more we grow, the more assurance we have
 - ii. If we are diligent to the end, we will have “*assurance of hope until the end*”
- vi. They are instructed here not to be “*sluggish*”
 - 1. Remember, he had already told them that they had not progressed as quickly in their knowledge as they should have (**Hebrews 5:11-14**)
 - a. So, there is some instruction here not to continue the lack of effort they had put into their faith
 - 2. They needed to imitate the examples of patient endurance they had seen in others
 - a. Again, the saints at Thessalonica were commended for their having been “*an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia*” (**1 Thessalonians 1:7**)
 - b. Timothy was told to “*set an example*” for other believers (**1 Timothy 4:12**)
 - i. This example included his “*conduct, in love, in faith, in purity*”
 - c. Certainly, we can find examples of faithful believers in our lives
 - i. We need to find these people and imitate them
 - d. The writer will also give many illustrations of faith in **Hebrews 11**
 - i. He says these are a “*great cloud of witnesses*” (**Hebrews 12:1**)
 - e. And without a doubt, the greatest witness of how we are to live is that of Jesus Himself (**Hebrews 12:2**)