

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

It was a bright Sunday morning in 18th century London, but Robert Robinson's mood was anything but sunny. All along the street, there were people hurrying to church, but in the midst of the crowd, Robinson was a lonely man. The sound of church bells reminded him of years past when his faith in God was strong and the church was an integral part of his life. It had been years since he set foot in a church -- years of wandering, disillusionment, and gradual defection from the God he once loved. That love for God -- once fiery and passionate -- had slowly burned out within him, leaving him dark and cold inside. Robinson heard the clip-clop, clip-clop of a horse-drawn cab approaching behind him. Turning, he lifted his hand to hail the driver. But then he saw that the cab was occupied by a young woman dressed in finery for the Lord's Day. He waved the driver on, but the woman in the carriage ordered the carriage to be stopped.

"Sir, I'd be happy to share this carriage with you," she said to Robinson. "Are you going to church?" Robinson was about to decline, then he paused. "Yes," he said at last. "I am going to church." He stepped into the carriage and sat down beside the young woman. As the carriage rolled forward Robert Robinson and the woman exchanged introductions. There was a flash of recognition in her eyes when he stated his name. "That's an interesting coincidence," she said, reaching into her purse. She withdrew a small book of inspirational verse, opened it to a ribbon bookmark, and handed the book to him. "I was just reading a verse by a poet named Robert Robinson. Could it be...?"

He took the book, nodding. "Yes, I wrote these words years ago." "Oh, how wonderful!" she exclaimed. "Imagine! I'm sharing a carriage with the author of these very lines!"

But Robinson barely heard her. He was absorbed in the words he was reading. They were words that would one day be set to music and become a great hymn of the faith, familiar to generations of Christians:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace'
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

His eyes slipped to the bottom of the page where he read:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it—
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

He could barely read the last few lines through the tears that brimmed in his eyes. "I wrote these words—and I've lived these words. 'Prone to wander...prone to leave the God I love.'"

The woman suddenly understood. "You also wrote, 'Here's my heart, O take and seal it.' You can offer your heart again to God, Mr. Robinson. It's not too late."

And it wasn't too late for Robert Robinson. At that moment he turned his heart back to God and walked with him for the rest of his days.

[Ron Lee Davis, [Courage to Begin Again](#), (Harvest House, Eugene, OR; 1978), pp. 145-147]

Summary

Summary: Our passage today is one of the all-time greatest and favorites passages..... of the Devil (the father of all lies). The devil loves to use it to convince believers in Christ, that if they have backslidden, walked away, gone back to their old ways, that they have lost their salvation, and it is impossible to ever be saved again, and that they might as well just give up on the thought of Christ loving them again. Lies, all lies, from the father of lies (the devil). This passage is actually one of the strongest

passages in the Bible, of God calling those who have drifted away..... to come home. Join us as we look into the "Heart of God".

Outline: This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

- The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3
- Warning #4 - Departing - 6:4-8
- The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12
- Resting In His Promise - 6:13-18
- Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

1.) The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3

(Hebrews 6:1 NKJV) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

(Hebrews 6:2 NKJV) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

(Hebrews 6:3 NKJV) And this we will do if God permits.

Tough Passage / Satan Uses It

We will study one of the toughest passages in the Bible, it has been battled over for centuries; Calvinism verses Arminism - the once saved always saved debate and church splitter. The argument over can a person lose their salvation. A Scripture that satan himself uses to split churches, and chase the backslider away from calling on the Lord for forgiveness. We have to start here in verse 1 to understand the verses of 6:4-6.

Therefore / Chp 5 - Dull Hearing

Here in verse 1, the "Therefore" takes us back to chapter 5, verse 11 more precisely, do not become dull (sluggish) of hearing. The word used for dull means ignorant, not as in stupid but in "ignored". They were told not to ignore the word that was taught to them. A truth was shared with someone, but they said I don't care, I'll do it my way and everything will still work out.

Hebrews 5:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Stop Learning / God stops Teaching

The Warning, when a person become dull of hearing they stop learning and growing. They are not capable of learning anymore because they didn't respond or heed what God had already told them. Why would God continual speak to someone about new things if a person didn't listen to what He had already said. Why would He try to teach us new things if we said we don't believe the things He has told us in past.

Do Step 1 / Dry Bible Studies

Do step one, and He will take you to step two. If your Bible studies are dry, dull, you feel that you are not learning or getting anything out of them, then maybe it is because you have become dull of hearing, and haven't done what He told you to do. Go back and do what He has told you to do, and see what happens in your studies.

Should Have been Teachers / Elementary Principles

In 5:12 they should have been teachers, but they weren't, they had to be taught the basis again. The "elementary principles" as it says here in verse one. In elementary school its ABC, 123, that we learn first before we move on. Well, here we see six ABC's that a Christian should know, six elementary principles:

- The Foundation of Repentance from Dead Works - we can't earn our salvation.
- Faith toward God - The Word mixed with faith as we previously have studied.
- The Doctrine of Baptisms - Water baptism, baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- The Laying on of Hands - finding your spiritual gifts and the empowering for service unto God
- The Resurrection of the Dead - End time's stuff, the Rapture, what lies ahead.
- Eternal Judgment - Hell and the judgment of God upon the Christ rejecting
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If You are a Believer

If you are a believer, you should understand these things, you should be able to teach them to others, for they are foundational of our Christianity. Parents, Sunday School workers, you have to get these things down and be able to convey them to others.

2.) Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6

6 Warnings of Book of Hebrews:

- Warning 1 - Drifting Away: 2:1-4
- Warning 2 - Doubting: 3:7-4:2
- Warning 3 - Dull Hearing: 5:11-14
- Warning 4 - Departing: 6:4-6
- Warning 5 - Despising: 10:26-39
- Warning 6 - Denying: 12:14-29

(Hebrews 6:4 NKJV) For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

(Hebrews 6:5 NKJV) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

(Hebrews 6:6 NKJV) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

(Hebrews 6:7 NKJV) For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

(Hebrews 6:8 NKJV) but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

Told to Move On / Some Tempted Back to Judaism

They were told to move on from the basics, but some not only were not moving forward, some were thinking of going back, going back to Judaism. Remember this is written to Jewish people who recognized that Jesus Christ is the Messiah that was promised to come.

Satan Uses It / Church Uses It

This is the great verse that will lead some to think that once you turn from the Lord it is over, there is no chance to repent and be restored. Satan uses it against the Backslider to tell them it is over, and Christians use it against each other to cause division in the Church.

The Word – To Gather

The foundational, and great Gospel of John begins in verse 1 by saying "in the beginning was the Word". One of the many meanings of the word "word (Logos)", and it has many deep meanings and truths, is the meaning "to gather".

λόγος. - Both in general and in detail the development of λόγος is exactly parallel to that of λέγω.

a. The sense "collection" (cf. 1. b.) is attested only of a number of compounds and derivatives,⁹ e.g., σύλλογος, "gathering" (from Hdt. and the tragedians), παλίλλογος, "assembled again," Hom. Il., 1, 126, and in class. times often with -λόγος "assembling" (also → σπερμο-λόγος), and -λογεῖν, and cf. the Hell. → λογεῖα, λογεύειν.

Theological dictionary of the New Testament (electronic ed., Vol. 4, p. 73). Eerdmans.

John 1:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

My point, God's Word is meant to "gather" people to Himself. His love for man, to gather to Him for a personal and intimate relationship. My point.... He desires to gather, not disperse man from His presence, He call man to "come".

He will Perfect - Gomer

In Psalm 138:8, He says He will "perfect", and that His mercy endures forever. I love the Hebrew word there, (gamar) which is a verb tense. And I equally love the derivative of the word, in the noun form, as it is the word (gomer). Which takes me back the remembrance of God's love story in Hosea, where he tells Hosea to take an unfaithful wife back to himself even after her unfaithfulness. God did to make the allegory, of His love for unfaithful Israel, and His heart changes not, and we can apply that to His love for us. He sends out His Word, which is His heart, to gather us, a person, even when unfaithful, back to Himself. God loves you!

Psalm 138:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

1584 גָּמַר [gamar /gaw-mar/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 363; GK 1698; Five occurrences; AV translates as "cease" once, "fail" once, "come to an end" once, "perfect" once, and "perform" once. 1 to end, come to an end, complete, cease. 1A (Qal). 1A1 to come to an end, be no more. 1A2 to bring to an end, complete. 2 (TWOT) to fail, perfect, perform. Strong, J. (1995). In *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Derivative of the word: 363a - גָּמַר (gōmer) Gomer, a proper name. Gomer was the name of Hosea's unfaithful wife (Hos 1:3). His relationship to her was symbolic of God's relationship to wayward Israel.

Hosea 1:3 (NKJV) ³ So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hosea 3:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans." ² So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. ³ And I said to her, "You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, will I be toward you."

Don't listen to the father of all lies – God wants to gather you back to Himself.

John 8:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Some say it applies to Non-Believer

Back to our passage context. One school of thought here for this passage is that this reference is not made to a believer but a nonbeliever. Maybe someone who at one time professed Christ, came on Sunday and Wednesday, had the fish on the bumper, and owned all the left behind books, but were in fact never really saved - they looked and acted, but never really were. Remember now, Hebrews was written to believers, it doesn't fit that for these first five chapters the author is talking about things for that apply to believers, and then change in mid-stream to say now he is talking to unbelievers.

They Tasted / Jesus Tasted

In verse 4 it says they tasted. This same school of thought would say well they tasted, but never fully drank it in. The problem I have with that is that in Hebrews 2:9 it says Jesus tasted death for everyone. It is the same Greek word used for taste.

(Hebrews 2:9 NKJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Jesus is our Full Assurance / No More Death to Experience

Jesus is our full assurance; we can rest in His finished work on the cross. If He only tasted it, but didn't fully drink it in, then we are in trouble for that would mean that there is still some death to be experienced. So no, this passage isn't talking about believer-look-alikes, it is referring to true believers: *(Hebrews 3:1 NKJV) Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,*

These people were Spirit-filled, and have experienced the power of God in their life (verse 4-5).

What Does It Mean / Epistle As Whole / Theme of Epistle / What Going On at Time

So then, what does it mean to the believer, and how then is it applied to the believer. To understand it, we have to step back from the verse, back from the chapter, and look at the book in whole. This epistle wasn't meant to be read one chapter at a time, it is literally a sermon that was meant to be read or spoken from start to finish. This verse has to be placed in the context of the whole epistle. What was going on at the time, why was it written to these people.

This Group Looking at the Temple & Judaism

This group of people written to, many had lost their jobs, their homes, their business, some have been killed or persecuted (Hebrews 10). They could hear the trumpets blowing at the temple, they could see their friends heading to the temple to offer sacrifices, they could see how easy their lives were, and they would ask themselves, what is the use of fighting against it, why not go back to the old way, everything was easier, no hardships and sufferings. They would say to themselves, after all I'm saved, I can blend back in, it isn't a big deal, I've accepted Jesus. Others may have been saying, my life has been nothing but pain since I gave my life to Jesus, where is He during the hard times, where is this life, and that more abundant that he promised, I don't see the advantage of being a Christian.

Context / REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST

In the context the author is screaming to the people, do you realize what you are considering! These people were ready to go back to Judaism, and back to offering of sacrifices in the temple. The author was saying NO - REMEMBER YOUR HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST. We can get so confused in the midst of struggles that we lose focus and forget the basic elementary things.

Old Things Passed Away / The Veil Torn

The old things have passed away, the veil has been rent. Do you realize how freaked out the Temple priest would be when they walked in that day and saw the Veil torn in two and laying on the ground. If that didn't register in your head that it happened simultaneously while Jesus was on the cross, you would have to be a fool. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the High Priest that went behind the Veil would have a rope tied around his leg in case God struck him dead. The Holy of Holies, meant the Most Holy Place, on the whole planet. It was the most reverent place in the World. I would not want to have been the priest who found the veil torn in two and laying on the ground.

Matthew 27:50-51 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

Jesus Final Sacrifice / He is Superior

Jesus was and is the final sacrifice. This whole epistle is about the superiority of Christ, there is none greater, the message is complete, and the way to perfect standing before God that is eternal is through Jesus Christ and Him only.

The Main Point - There is No Other Way / Nothing to Go back to

Main Point: the author, through the Holy Spirit, is saying there is no other way for salvation, except through Jesus and His Cross. A common lamb of the field, sacrificed on the altar in the temple, cannot wash your sin away, YOU CAN NOT be renewed by an animal sacrifice, your sin cannot be covered by a lamb on the altar ever again. Only the Perfect Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29) can wash away your sin. Only Jesus can make you white as snow. Now that Jesus has come, there is no other way, there is nothing to go back to.

Praise Him / Don't Need to Keep Grabbing a Lamb / Just Look

Praise Him, Praise Him for that, praise Him that there is no other way. Praise Him that we do not have to keep grabbing a lamb and heading back to the temple and the altar. Praise Him that all we have to do is look to the final Lamb - Jesus Christ.

(Hebrews 6:6 NKJV) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

(Hebrews 6:7 NKJV) For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

(Hebrews 6:8 NKJV) but if it bears thorns and briars, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

To Think Another Way Insult to God / Common Animal / Lowers God

For these Hebrew believers at the time, or for us today, to think that there is another way - whether by animal sacrifices or my good works, is an insult to God. It is shameful to say that an animal is equal to God - Jesus Christ. That a common animal can wash away my sin; that puts that lamb that they would go sacrifice at the temple again - **equal with Jesus Himself**. What an insult to Him for it lowers God Himself to the level of an animal, and that brings Him shame. Jesus is not just another lamb.

Once and for All / NOT Once isn't Enough

Jesus died once and for all; He went to the cross once, and said it is finished, there never needs to be made another sacrifice ever again, it is finished. But if these Hebrew believers went to the temple and started offering sacrifices again, they would be in essence saying, once wasn't enough, and they would be crucifying Jesus again, again, and again.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(Hebrews 10:4 NKJV) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

Hebrews 10:7-14 (NKJV) ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' ⁸ Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**. ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

A Warning Given / Time To Do Something / Examine

This is Warning number 4 of 6 in this epistle. A warning is given so you have time to do something about it. The two-minute warning in football means you still have two minutes to play, but you only have two minutes to play. We get warnings in our lives so we can examine ourselves and say how am I doing in terms of that warning. Am I safe from the danger, or am I close to problems.

Step Back / Clear Your Head / Peter- where would we go

The author was saying to them, step back, clear your head, do you realize what you are considering, going back to Judaism, and animal sacrifices, no way, for there is no other way. God has given you better - Jesus the Final Sacrifice! Don't go back, for there is nothing to go back to. Do you remember in John 6 Jesus made the statement I Am the Bread of Life, and if anyone eats this bread which is my flesh they shall have eternal life. Then some people said that's weird I'm out of here. Then Jesus said to Peter will you leave me also, and Peter said those beautiful, true words, Lord...where would we go. There is no where else to go.

(John 6:51 NKJV) "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

(John 6:66 NKJV) From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

(John 6:67 NKJV) Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

(John 6:68 NKJV) But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

There have been times in my walk where I have wanted to quit, give it up and take the easy route, but I always came to the same place, where would I go, not just for eternal life, but in this life, I couldn't live any other way, I'd be miserable.

Remember better, perfect, and eternal; Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us are better because these blessings are eternal and they give us perfect standing before God.

Adding to is Blasphemy

Let me say this clearly, to add to, or take away from the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, is blasphemy. People say Jesus and.....Joseph Smith, Jesus and.....my good works, Jesus and.....the 7 sacraments. No, it is Jesus and...the CROSS. Period!!!! The only way to the Father and eternal salvation, that is the theme of this epistle – the superiority of Christ over everything.

This is not a hypothetical pondering in these verses, this addresses real people who departed. They said Jesus wasn't enough for the forgiveness of sin. They are saying the "High Priesthood" of Jesus is imperfect, inferior, need man's priesthood because God's isn't enough or good enough. Again that is blasphemy, and it is blasphemy against the witness of the Holy Spirit that testifies man's sin separates him from the Holy God, and only Jesus "alone" can cover man's sin through His finished work on the cross.

Matthew 12:31–32 (NKJV) ³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

These people are not making an "honest" mistake, they are willfully declaring literally a "new" religion, and thus dissolving that Jesus is the only way.

But..... even still, notice the word in verse 8, "and near to being cursed", that there is still time for them to repent and return to the Lord. They must recognize the offense and shame and error, and then repent and return to the Gospel (Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation). If that is you today, your version of salvation is "impossible" for the covering and repentance of sin; your version of salvation will bring damnation upon you, eternal separation, the place of torment which is hell. Repent of you sin, and put your trust in Jesus as the only means and way to cover your sin. Then live and bear a life that has the fruit of salvation.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

So again I remind and cry out to the prodigals, the wayward, those that have drifted away – that is not you, don't let Satan twist this passage, that you can't come home. You know the Gospel, you believe it, you just backslid.... But you are not saying Jesus Christ and adding to the Gospel. Don't fall for Satan's twist (or even the churches and other Christians) – Jesus is calling you, gathering you, Gomer come back to my love!

******* The Debate / Lose is an Accident *******

So, can a person lose their salvation, I would say absolutely not for to lose something means to "happen by accident". Jesus promises to keep us in his hand:

John 10:27–29 (NKJV) ²⁷ *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

No Snatch / Can Jump / Free-will

Although no one can snatch me out of His hand, it doesn't say I can't by free-will chose to leave His hand. Free-will to chose Him, would also give me free-will to reject Him later. Why and how anyone could is beyond my comprehension, but I personally know people that have made commitments to the Lord, and later came to say I don't want to follow Him no more, I hate Him, He took my daughter, my wife, He hasn't

cured my cancer, I can't and won't follow Him. Where will they spend eternity? That's not my ministry, and that is the most important point I want to make here, it isn't for us to decide, it is for us to point. God will examine and decide, we are to point and show, the only way.

Our Ministry / Elementary Principles / Walk - Fire&Smoke

My ministry is to tell people the 100% sure way. My ministry is to make sure they understand the ABC, the elementary principles. I am sure of the principles, and I am sure of the sure way. I won't tell you how far you can walk near the fire and not get burned, I'll tell you the sure way to walk that you won't even have a drop of the scent of smoke.

The Broken

If someone comes and says ohh I blew it, God will never take me back, I'm such a fool; I tell them the story of the Prodigal Son. I tell them 1 John 1:9, Philippians 1:6

Luke 15:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Rebellious

When I have to go find a brother and say what are you doing, why are you living in this sin and calling yourself a Christian, and they say hey man, once saved always saved; that is when I tell them the story of the Wicked Servant, Ephesians 5:1-6, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Matthew 25:26–30 (NKJV) ²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Ephesians 5:3–6 (NKJV) ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Give the Warning / Called to Point - Not Decide

I give them a warning, so they still have time to do something about it, so they can examine their heart and hopefully seek the Lord. Where they spend eternity, not my call, for my calling is to point.

Stick to Elementary Principle

For all, stick to the elementary principles and you won't be drawn away, but have a solid foundation for greater maturity.

Avoid the Debate / Debaters Don't know the Theme

People who argue and cause division over this debate seem to always have one thing in common, they aren't evangelizing and winning souls to the Lord, because they are too busy arguing and trying to get everyone to hear their side. They will have a hard time agreeing to this interpretation because they don't know the theme of the Epistle, and the context of the first 5 chapters.

Clear Your Head / Jesus not Equal with Animal

AGAIN, the author was saying to them, step back, clear your head, do you realize what you are considering, going back to Judaism, and animal sacrifices, no way, for there is no other way. God has given you better - Jesus the Final Sacrifice!!! - that brings us verse 9, because this is a warning, and that

author says I know you'll head this warning once you step back and consider what you'd actually be doing - going to the temple and making Jesus equal with an animal.

3.) The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12

(Hebrews 6:9 NKJV) But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

Note, "better things concerning you" – clearly talking to people who had not drifted, and still had ears to hear. But nonetheless, a warning that all should consider.

(Hebrews 6:10 NKJV) For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Your High Priest Knows your Struggle

God is not unjust to forget your work and labor, the author is saying God knows what you are going through, remember He walked where you walked, He can relate to you, that is why He can be your High Priest, don't run from Him but to Him.

(Hebrews 6:11 NKJV) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,

(Hebrews 6:12 NKJV) that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Imitate the Faithful / Body We Need you Healthy

They are told to imitate the faithful they have witnessed. May we be faithful people that will imitated.

Body, we need you healthy and reproducing, not ill and causing others to stray. Get into your walk with all your heart, mind and soul.

Don't be Sluggish / Temple soon Destroyed

They are told not to be sluggish (same Greek word used in 5:11 for Dull of Hearing). So they are told not to be sluggish, be patient, for what they didn't know was, that soon, those very same people who they thought had it better, that their lives were going to be shaken, for in just a few years, Nero would come in and not only destroy the temple, he would slaughter thousands of Jews. They say that their blood flowed through the streets of Jerusalem like a river. For those people who ignored the "Final Sacrifice", they would have no foundation to fall back on, and for many, they would have missed out on the opportunity of eternal life in the presence of the King. For those who were considering going back to Judaism, there would be no temple to go back to in just a few years, so then where would they be.

Church join us for our prophecy studies, so we don't get wrapped up into this world, but be waiting and looking for the next to come – which as we see in the world around us, is soon.

Those of you that are struggling, those of you that say this walk called Christianity is tough - Rest. Just rest/wait as we studied last week, rest in Jesus. He is going to see us through. And know this, whatever you would ever be tempted to be drawn back to is all going to burn and fail you at some time. Only Jesus will stand against them all, for he is superior, He is Our full assurance. He promised!

4.) Rest In His Promise - 6:13-18

(Hebrews 6:13 NKJV) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

(Hebrews 6:14 NKJV) saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

(Hebrews 6:15 NKJV) And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

(Hebrews 6:16 NKJV) For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Abe waited 26 years / Told to Hold On

Abraham waited patiently, even when the promise of a son looked hopeless, but God fulfilled his promise. He had to wait 25 years, with a barren wife, but Isaac came. These believers were encouraged to hold on and hang in there; it will be worth the wait. The same is true for us today, sometimes it is tough, and sometimes we want to quit, but hang in there God is doing a mighty work.

V.13 - He could swear by no one greater. He swore by Himself, Men swear by something greater than himself to prove he is serious, but for God He can't swear by something greater because there is nothing greater. So God gives His Word, and that settles it.

(Hebrews 6:17 NKJV) Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, (Hebrews 6:18 NKJV) that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Quoted from Psalm 110

2 Immutable things (which means unchanging):

- His Promise
- His Oath

He can't lie, and His Word will always be true. God said it that settles it - Amen. His promise becomes our refuge, the place we can run to with full assurance. This passage, this chapter 6 is not to be a place of division and scattering, but a place of hope and gathering.

5.) Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

(Hebrews 6:19 NKJV) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

A promise (the High Priest) who has passed through the earthly veil of the Temple, and into heaven. The warning to those who were saying that isn't enough, we need the earthly priesthood; but to us here today, the Promise..... it is all we need, and He is our anchor that we can hold on to in this life and the life to come.

God has kept His promise, He promised us a Savior and He gave Us One, Himself. The anchor!

A nail in a sure place:

Isaiah 22:23-24. (Jesus picks this up when He talks to church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Jesus takes these words and applies them to Himself in Revelation 3). A nail in a sure place. They would hang pots and pans, coats and valuables on the pegs in the tents, and they knew it would hold everything. Jesus is our Nail in a sure place, we can hang all our burdens, failures, insecurities on Him, and be sure it will hold. We are in His Hands, His hands are a sure thing.

Isaiah 22:21-24 (NKJV) ²¹ I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. ²² The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. ²³ I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. ²⁴ They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

He is resting in His love for us, so should we:

Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

God promised us He will see us through this life, hang on to the rock, the sure place, no matter how pounded you may get, and never, never, ever go back to anything less than Jesus Christ

(Hebrews 6:20 NKJV) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Next Study - Melchizedek

Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance

- The ABC's of Christianity - 6:1-3
- Warning #4 - Departing - 6:4-8
- The Encouragement Through the Promise - 6:9-12
- Resting In His Promise - 6:13-18
- Jesus, His Promise, Our Anchor - 6:19

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need