

## Hebrews Chapter 6:7-20

### Verses 7-8 – An Illustration From Agriculture

*The ground* – Speaks of the person. Luke 8:4-15.

*The rain which often falls upon it* – The blessings of God (salvation, sanctification). Lev 26:4.

*Brings forth useful vegetation* – Fruitfulness in the life of the person. John 15:8

*To those for whose sake it is also tilled* – God and others. Colossians 1:10-12

*But if it yields thorns and thistles* – If there is a lack of useful fruit.

*It is worthless and close to being cursed* – The word “worthless” means “disapproved.” Paul uses this word in 1 Cor 9:27. “Cursed” is not referring to loss of eternal life. In Deut 28, Israel, the people of God, dependent upon their responses, are promised both blessing and cursing.

*It ends up being burned* – This is not speaking of burning in hell.

Farmers often burned their fields to destroy unwanted vegetation, not to destroy the field itself. This is a reference to God as a consuming fire (Heb 12:29) and ultimately the testing by fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor 3:10-15).

### Verse 9

*But, beloved* – The warning is to believers!

*Better things* – These things are defined in the verses to follow: works, love, diligence, faith, and patience.

*Things that accompany salvation* – The full salvation promised to them.

### Verse 10

*For God is not unjust so as to forget* –

-*Their work*

-*Their love*

-*Their ministry, past and present*

Although they were immature, dull of hearing, they were still ministering. The danger was falling away from their ministry by not pressing on to maturity.

### Verses 11-12

*Show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end* – Hope is a key element of the Christian life! Faithful, diligent, service is the basis for great hope! In 2 Cor 4:8-18 Paul gives us a magnificent reason to hope – our promised *eternal weight of glory!*

*That you may not be sluggish* – Same word as in 5:11.

*But imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises* – Two key ingredients: faith and patience! Chapter 11 presents the faithfulness and patience we should imitate.

### Verses 13-15

Abraham is the perfect illustration of someone who believed the promise of God.

*The promise to Abraham* – This refers to the promise God gave to Abraham in Gen 22:16-17 after he was obedient to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

*The promise* – From Genesis 12 that his seed would be greatly multiplied.

### Verses 16-18 The Faithfulness of God

*Men swear by one greater than themselves* – To end an argument, men appeal to a higher authority.

*An oath is given* – An oath binds our word to our character.

*In the same way God...interposed with an oath* –

-*To show the heirs of the promise*

-*The unchangeableness of His purpose*

*By two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie* –

1 – God’s promise

2 – God’s oath

Why? *So that we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.*

We may flee to the promises of God in time of discouragement!

### Verses 19-20 The Anchor of our hope

*This hope...an anchor of the soul* – A ship’s anchor secured the ship in the harbor and during the storms.

*Sure* – Something that will not move or totter when put to the test.

*Steadfast* – Something that will not break down under weight.

*One which enters within the veil* – The place in which our hope is anchored is explained.

*Where Jesus has entered* – Jesus, the anchor of our souls, is in the very presence of God, seated at His right hand.

*As a forerunner for us* – Just as Jesus has gone ahead of us into the presence of God, we will one day follow Him!

*Having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek* – Our hope is made even more sure because of the nature of Christ’s priesthood!