

Perplexing Passages in the Perfect Word of God

Hebrews 6:4-6

For further reading: Galatians, Hebrews 3-5, John 15

- Hermeneutics, or the science of Biblical interpretation
 - The first three rules of proper interpretation of Scripture is context, context, and context.
 - Literary context
 - Historical/cultural context.
- Most of the Bible was **not** written **to** us; but it was written **for** us
 - There is only one correct interpretation for each Biblical passage—many different applications
 - The interpretation is always the intent of the author when he wrote it
 - Always interpret perplexing passages with clear passages
 - e.g., John 3:16 is clear—if a passage seems to contradict John 3:16, then the perplexing passage needs to be viewed from a different perspective—God’s Word cannot contradict itself and it is always going to harmonize
- Hebrews 6:4-6
 - Left alone, one can lose salvation or had the wrong kind of faith and was never saved—both end with the same result—justification is not through belief
 - Is there another possibility?
 - The people “have once been enlightened”
 - He is referring to Jews who came to realize Jesus as Messiah
- They “have tasted the heavenly gift”
 - Hebrews 2:9—Jesus tasted death
 - Did the writer imply they were kind of born again? Kind of saved? Tasted and spit out?
 - There is no Biblical evidence for such thoughts
- They are “partakers of the Holy Spirit”
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 (He is our pledge)
 - He cannot leave
 - He can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
 - He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
- They have “tasted the Word of God and powers of the age to come”
 - OT prophecies of Messiah (Christ)
 - Church Age/Age of Grace
- They have fallen away (fall in one’s way)
 - It is impossible to renew them to repentance for these who have fallen
 - He does not say eternal life, justification, or salvation but a state of mind is in view
 - If these people have returned to living a life of dead works (vs 1), aka, the Mosaic Law, it is impossible to live a life of faith and good fruits to the Lord—it is impossible to mature in Christ
- Application: do not turn to works/legalism for maturation. It will not work. Abide in Christ and much fruit will be borne and growth will be had.