

The Book of HEBREWS

Chapter 6

“Jesus, Our Hope!”

1) GO ON TO PERFECTION (v1-8)

(v1-3) Elementary Principles:

- #1- Repentance from dead works (Ephesians 2:1-7)
- #2- Faith toward God (Ephesians 2:8,9; Hebrews ch. 11)
- #3- Doctrine of baptisms (lit. *washings* - O.T. Ceremonial- Ex. 30:18-21; Lev. 16:4,24,26,28; Mark 7:4,8; N.T. - Water Baptism & Holy Spirit)
- #4- Laying on of hands (Identification)
- #5- Resurrection of the dead (To heaven or hell)

(“The belief of the resurrection is found in no other system of religion, nor is there a ray of light shed upon the future condition of man by any other scheme of philosophy or religion.” - Barnes)

#6- Eternal judgment (*Lake of Fire*- Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8)

> “**go on to perfection**”- lit. “**let us be carried to salvation**”- **Philippians 3:12-15**- “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things, which are behind, and reaching forward to those things, which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.”

(**Scofield on perfection**- (Gk. *teleioo*)- **to reach a goal or to achieve a purpose**. Three stages of perfection are revealed: (1) **Positional perfection**, already possessed by every believer in Christ (Heb. 10:14). (2) **Relative perfection**, i.e. spiritual maturity (Phil. 3:15), especially in such aspects as the will of God (Col. 4:12), love (1 Jn. 4:17-18), holiness (2 Cor. 7:1), patience (Jas. 1:4), “every good work” (Heb. 13:21). Maturity is achieved progressively, as in 2 Cor. 7:1- “**perfecting holiness**” and **Gal. 3:3** - “**are you now being made perfect?**” and is accomplished through gifts of ministry bestowed (Eph.4:12). And (3) **ultimate perfection**, i.e. perfection in soul, spirit, and body . . . which will be realized at the time of the resurrection of the dead (Phil. 3:11). For the Christian nothing short of the moral perfection of God is always the absolute standard of conduct, but Scripture recognizes that Christians do not attain sinless perfection in this life (cp. 1 Pet. 1:15-16; 1 Jn. 1:8-10).)

Barnes' comments- “No man accomplishes much who does not aim high.”

(4-6) “**Go on**” or “**Fall away**” - **parapipto**--to fall beside a person or thing; to deviate from the right path, to turn aside, to wander; to error; to fall away (from the true faith); from worship of Jehovah (Yahweh) - (from Thayer's Greek)

> Five traits of apostasy (falling away):

- #1- Enlightened but not a light.
- #2- Tasted the heavenly gift but did not receive.
- #3- Partakers of the Holy Spirit but not possessors of the Holy Spirit.
- #4- Tasted the good word of God but did not stay for the healthy diet.

True Christians are like Jeremiah- “*Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart*” (Jer. 15:16).

#5- Tasted of the powers of the age to come but died of worldly poison.

(**Illustration**: Rain—Earth—Herbs—Blessing; contrast - Rain—Earth—Thorns & Briers—Rejected—near to being cursed & to be burned.) (rf. Matthew 13:18-23; John 15:1-14 -- fruit or no fruit; Revelation chapter 3 -- Philadelphia or Laodicea)

- So close & yet so far! - 2Thessalonians ch. 2 (Apostasy in the last days!)

II) INHERIT THE PROMISES (v9-18)

(v9) “*things that accompany salvation*”- Repentance, Testimony, Discipleship (twofold-*inward*—*outward*), Worship, Prayer, Service.

(v10) “*work & labor of love in His name*” - Be diligent to the end; imitate the heroes of faith (Heb. ch. 11).

(v11) “*show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end*” – **Keep going!**

(v12) “*inherit the promises*” - Relationship with the Father, Jesus our Savior, Holy Spirit empowered, Sins forgiven, Abundant life, Prayers answered, God’s provisions, Eternal life, New body, Heaven is our home, etc.

(v13-18) Our example from the past “*God’s promise to Abraham*”- God is immutable (unchanging).

III) HOPE IN OUR HIGH PRIEST (v19-20)

(v19) “*hope in Jesus*”- the anchor of our soul!

(v20) “*Jesus the forerunner entered behind the veil for us*”- **Matthew 27:45-54**

(Insight: Dr. Stuart Sacks in his book *Hebrews Through the Eyes of a Hebrew* writes: “Synagogues are constructed to remind the Jew of the ancient Temple, a more ornate version of the tabernacle in the wilderness. There is a *parokhet* (curtain) drawn across the place where the sacred *Torah* scrolls are kept. It is a reminder of the veil, which separated the people from the Holy of Holies. Much ritual accompanies the opening of this veil and the reading of the Scriptures. How unlike its ancient counterpart, where, behind the *parokhet* resided not only the *aron kodesh* (holy ark), but also the *sh’khinah*, the manifest presence of God. The hope of which Hebrews speaks is a vital hope because it allows the believer to enter the inner sanctuary where God dwells. The vast body of Jewish law, known as *halakhah* (the way), can never usher us into the presence of God; only he who is the Way makes such communion possible.”)