

Lesson 7 – Hebrews 6

In our previous lessons, the writer has shone the superiority of Christ to angels, Moses and Aaron (high priest). It would be foolish for anyone to return to the inferiorities of the old Law when they could enjoy the superiorities of Jesus Christ. Then why were these Hebrew believers (Christians!) tempted to go back into legalism? They were not going on to maturity in Christ. For this reason, the writer paused to exhort them to grow up in the Lord; and that is the **theme** for **chapter 6**.

Day 1

1. Pray!
2. Read **chapter 6** and continue marking key words you have been marking. Also, mark **hope** and **promise** and **if** (in **verse 3** only).
3. Make lists of what you learn about *hope* and *promise*. (Remember, you do that by asking the 5W's and an H as you go.) Compare the lists. What does the *promise* have to do with *hope*? How do these things relate to God?

4. **Hebrews 6** contains two main ideas: pressing on to maturity and having hope.

a. What are the believers encouraged to do according to **verse 1a**?

b. **Verse 12** summarizes the main message of this difficult (and often misunderstood) section of this epistle. Read it with **verse 11**.

c. The Jews wanted to go back to Egypt; and as a result a whole generation failed to inherit what God had promised. They were safely delivered out of Egypt (a picture of the world) but they never enjoyed the promised rest in Canaan. We believers today can make the same mistake. We don't enter the promised faith/rest.

4. As you close out this day's lesson, consider the following:

No one wants to live hopelessly. We all look to someone or something that will give us hope for a better tomorrow. Can you trust what you place your in? Can you have confidence? The hope of **Hebrews 6** is a hope that is an anchor for the soul, sure and steadfast. Write down some thoughts about your hope, as you consider these questions!

Day 2

1. Pray!

2. **Hebrews 6** continues a thought started in **Heb. 5: 11**. The emphasis is on spiritual progress... spiritual maturity! The chapter divisions in the Bible were added many centuries after the original writings and are man-made, not inspired by God. (**2 Tim 3: 16**) Sometimes we need to read the end of a chapter with the beginning of the next ignoring the chapter break, **to understand the flow of thought**. Start today reading **Hebrews 5: 11-6: 12**.

3. What was the issue in **Hebrews 5: 11-14**?

How does **Hebrews 6: 1-2** continue that thought?

4. What two kinds of people are contrasted in **Hebrews 5: 11-6: 2**?

5. In **Hebrews 5: 11-14**, we have the marks of spiritual immaturity.

a. The writer is about to explain the heavenly priesthood of Christ, but he is not sure his readers are ready for what he has to teach. What is the problem according to **verse 11**?

Let's remember, these believers started their backward journey by doing what 2 things?

He. 2: 1-4

Heb. 3: 7- 4:13

As a result, they are now _____.

b. These believers were not able to do what according to **verse 12a**?

What was their "spiritual" diet?

By this time, it should have been what? **Verses 12b-13**

c. This all results in what (concerning the use of God's Word?) **Verse 14**

6. Read **Hebrews 6: 1-3**. Therefore, in light of their issues of spiritual immaturity, the writer gives a call to spiritual maturity. *Let us* _____.

7. What does your spiritual diet consist of? Is it predominantly milk or meat? Do you need a change of diet?

Day 3

1. Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 6: 1-3**.

3. Just like human parents, God wants His children to grow up... and enjoy a full life as a mature adult. That's why He calls us to "go on to perfection?" What does perfection mean here?

4. These are immature, baby believers, not because they have been recently saved, but because they failed to mature after being saved for some time. These immature believers need to leave the ABCs of biblical doctrine and go on to maturity. The Greek word for "leaving" means *to abandon, to forsake, to put away, to put out*. Take these meanings back to **verse 1** to get a fuller understanding of what the writer is saying.

It means passing from one phase of contemplation to another. They must leave behind the ABCs; these things must be settled in their minds once-and-for-all so that they can press forward to the meat!

5. In **verses 1-2**, he lists some of the first principles or ABCs of the faith. There are **six** things, but they come in three sets of twos. List the pairs below:

Pair 1

Pair 2

Pair 3

6. The first pair is repentance and faith to God. These mark the initiation of our spiritual life... our conversion. What does it mean to *repent*?

6. What does the author mean by “dead works” in **Hebrews 6: 1**? Look up these cross-references.

Isaiah 64: 6

Eph. 2: 8-9

Rom. 9: 30-32

Gal. 3: 5, 10

How do “repentance from dead works” and “faith toward God” relate to each other?

7. The second pair is *baptisms* and *laying on of hands*. These have to do with a person’s relationship to the local assembly of believers.

a. Baptisms means “washings”. (See **Hebrews 9:10.**) In the New Testament, a person who repented and trusted Christ was baptized and became a part of a local church. While water itself can never cleanse sin, baptism is a symbol of spiritual cleansing... as well as our identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection. Look up the following verses:

Acts 2: 41-47

1 Peter 3: 21

Acts 22: 16

Rom. 6: 1-4

b. The “laying on of hands” symbolized the sharing of some blessing or the setting apart of a person for ministry. Look up the following verses;

Luke 24: 50

Acts 19: 6

I Tim. 4: 14

8. The last two items, the resurrection of the dead and the eternal judgment have to do with the future. Look up the following verses:

Acts 24: 14-15

Acts 17: 30-31

9. So, the writer says, “let us go on to perfection (v1)... this we will do if God permits.” (v3) This means “we will leave these things behind.” The goal will be achieved if the will of the believer and the will of God agree. It is God’s will for them to go on to maturity. How do we know that?

The author says, *if God permits*. *If* is in the first class condition in the Greek. So, it means, “If God permits, and He does.” God wants them to move on to maturity, but He will not force or compel them to do so.

So, as you close out today, consider the lesson of **Hebrews 6:1-3**. It should be clear. “You have laid the foundation. You know your ABCs. Now move forward! Let God carry you along to maturity!!

Day 4

1. Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 6: 4-12**.

3. What two kinds of people are contrasted in **Hebrews 6: 4-12**?

a. Read these verses.

1 Cor. 3: 1-9

Eph. 4: 11-16

1 Peter 2: 1-3

b. How do these help you understand the contrast?

3. Read **verses 4-6**. These verses have caused worry and concern, mainly because they are misunderstood and misapplied. One view is that the recipients are unbelievers. Do you think this is true?

a. Let's consider some word meanings! Take the meanings back to the text for further understanding.

once – means once and for all

enlightened –

The way this verb is used in Hebrews 10: 32 indicates an experience of true salvation. Also, see 2 Cor. 4: 4-6.

tasted -

partakers of – sharers of

b. Have these Hebrews experienced the gift of salvation, the Word of God and the power of God? Doesn't this describe authentic salvation?

4. Another view (of **verses 4-6**) is that the writer is warning of apostasy and losing your salvation. They believe the writer is warning against the sin of apostasy, willfully turning one's back on Jesus Christ and returning to the old life. According to them, such a person would be lost forever. There are problems with this view.

- a. What is the Greek word for "fall away" in **verse 6**. What does it mean?
- b. What is the Greek word for the "falling away" in **2 Thess. 2: 3**?
- c. In proper Bible study we always interpret the obscure by the obvious.

There are many verses in Scripture that assure the true believer that he can never be lost. In fact, one of the greatest arguments for security is the last section of this chapter. Look up the following scriptures:

John 5: 24

John 10: 26-30

Rom. 8: 28-39

Heb. 6: 13-20

5. The people addressed here were true believers, not mere professors. Furthermore, how could unsaved people ever disgrace Jesus Christ and "put Him to open shame?"

6. We will discuss other views in class, but for now, we must ask the question, what is the writer trying to say to us?

a. It is very possible that he is describing a hypothetical case to prove his point that a true believer cannot lose his salvation. Notice, the writer changed the pronouns of **verses 1-3** (us, we) to those, they in **verses 4-6**.

b. His statement in Hebrews 6: 9 seems to support this interpretation: "*We are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.*"

c. The argument runs like this: "Let's suppose that you do not go on to maturity. Does this mean that you will go back to condemnation, that you will lose your salvation? Impossible! If you could lose your salvation, it would be impossible to get it back again; and this would disgrace Jesus Christ because He did not save to

the uttermost. He would have to be crucified again for you, and this could never happen.

d. There is another possible interpretation that does not require a hypothetical case. You should note that the words “crucify” and “put” in Hebrews 6:6 are, in the Greek, present participles: “since they are crucifying for themselves the Son of God, and are putting [Him] to an open shame.” Once they stop disgracing Jesus Christ in this way, they can be brought to repentance and renew their fellowship with God.

7. Whatever approach you take, keep in mind that the writer’s purpose was not to frighten the readers but to assure them. If he had wanted to frighten them, he would have named whatever sin (or sins) would have caused them to disgrace Jesus Christ; but he didn’t. In fact, he avoided the word apostasy and used instead “to fall by the wayside”.

Christians can “sin unto death. See the following verses:

1 Cor. 11: 30-32

1 John 5: 16-17

This is God’s chastening, a theme the writer of Hebrews will take up in **Hebrews 12**.

Day 5

1. Pray!

2. Read **Heb. 6: 7-10**. Remember, progressing in spiritual maturity is the main theme of **Heb. 5: 11-6:20**. Progress will result in what?

a. The point the author of Hebrews makes in **verses 1-6** is illustrated in **verses 7-8**? In your own words, what is he saying?

b. In **verse 9**, he is persuaded of better things for his readers. He believes they are believers. He calls them what?

c. He is persuaded they will produce better things... than the things of **verse 8**. What were they?

d. The proof of their saved state is in their previous works. He lists **5** things God will not forget:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3. According to **verse 11-12**, pressing on to maturity (**verse 1**) requires what?

- a. They should not become what?
- b. The word for *sluggish* in the Greek, is the same word as *dull* in **5: 11!**

4. In **verses 13-20**, he points out that God's promises can never fail.

a. In **verses 13-15**, we see God made a promise to Abraham (see **Gen. 22: 16-17**). In spite of Abraham's failures and sins, God kept His promise and who was born?

It's important to note that many of God's promises do not depend on our character but on His faithfulness!

b. God not only gave Abraham a promise, but He also confirmed the promise with what?

So what are the two immutable (unchangeable) things?

God did not do this only for Abraham, but for whom (**verse 17**)?

c. God "can not lie" ... we can have strong consolation (great encouragement) concerning the **hope** set before us.

d. In **verse 18**, what does "fled for refuge" refer to from the Old Testament? How does it apply to New Testament believers?

5. According to **verses 19-20**, what do we learn about this hope we have?

Remember, back in day 1, you considered how promise and hope related to each other in this chapter. Now, consider and answer the questions in #3 (in your homework.)

“Regardless of what approach you take to the exhortation in this section, be sure to lay hold of the main lesson: believers must go on to maturity, and God has made it possible for us to do so. If we start to *drift from the Word* (Heb. 2: 1-4), then we will also start to *doubt the Word* (Heb. 3:7-4:13). Before long, we will get *dull toward the Word* (Heb. 5:11-6:20) and become lazy believers. The best way to keep from drifting is: *to lay hold of the anchor!*

Anchored heavenward! How much more secure can you be?”

Warren Wiersbe