

While we are waiting to begin the lesson please
Complete the three questions EXERCISE one on page one of
your hand outs.

Hebrews: a Bible Study

Lesson SEVEN

Liberty Towers Church
Men's Bible Study
Just Larry

Theinsight.com

Prayer

Father, you know our goals and dreams for the future,
our deepest hurts and disappointments,
our weaknesses and yes even our failures
You understand us completely.

Teach us to be open and honest with you

Not for your benefit but for ours.

May we tonight enter into your rest.

May your word be

ALIVE

ACTIVE

SHARP

PENETRATING

DIVIDING

JUDGING OF OUR ATTITUDES OF HEART

NOTHING IS HIDDEN FROM YOU

We pray for the rest of knowing you.

Open our minds to hope, joy, peace that only comes with you
in our lives.

Better	The message of God, as found in the Bible is two things: REVELATION AND RECONCILIATION	Our Path
1. Better source of God's message 1:1-3		Prophets
2. Better vehicle of God's message 1:4-2:18		Angels
3. Better leadership toward God's message 3:1-3:7		Moses
4. Better internal understanding of God's message 3:8-4:13		Rest
5. Better provider of God's message 4:14-5:10		Priests
6. Better understanding of God's message 5:11-6:12		Teaching
7. Better promise of God's message 6:12-6:20		Promise
8. Better intermediary of God's message 6:20-7:28		Melchizedek
9. Better contract of God's message 8:1-9:28		Covenant
10. Better provision of God's message 10:1-18		Sacrifice
11. Better method of God's message 11:1-40		Faith
12. Better encouragement of God's Message 12:1-13:22		Admonitions

The book of Hebrews is not a change of Revelation and reconciliation. But a better way to understand it

Our focus for tonight Hebrews 5:11 - 6:12

Focus

- The message is still the same
- The message still fills two needs of man
 - Who is God and what does He expect of me? (REVELATION)
 - A path to God and how to become what he expects of me. (RECONCILIATION)
- It is a message for those on the edge.

Remember: the message in Hebrews was to a specific group

Ethnic Jews: With all the history and ritual and relationships which make them a special people, a chosen people

They were Christians: Part of a local church, fellowship, prayers and messages.

The Jewish Christians to whom this letter was addressed, were tempted to abandon their Christian faith and return to Judaism under the threat of persecution.

Some of them had lost their property and had suffered public reproach on account of their faith (10:32-34).

They were thinking, "Hey, we didn't have it so bad as Jews!

The Jewish religion was a good system.

It spelled out how we should live.

The rituals were familiar and satisfying.

It was the faith of our forefathers for many centuries.

Maybe we should just go back to the way things were."

Some had already left the church.

The message was for those on the edge . Holding on for dear life on a hand hold on the edge of a precipice.

Description of the illness 5:11-14

Idea
1

- I have a lot to say but you don't want to hear them V11
- You should have gone further by now v12
 - You should be at a place you are teaching others
 - But you have not gone on to the good stuff.
- All milk and not solid food
 - Just enough to hold on.
 - Just enough to be called babe
- You can't understand the difference between good and evil. V14
 - It is just for the mature
 - Had their senses trained.
- The elementary things are good, but you simply can't stop there.

There was a group that was like cancer in the church.

It was growing

It needed to be taken care of

Should we just let them go?

They were not really the Christian type

Always looking back

Always telling the stories of the old days

When it was time to step up, they would always step back

They are not in a good place

A group of stunted, spiritual midgets.

can't teach

Need milk from the back tit of the church

untrained to understand the difference between good and evil

Teachings were just bouncing off

No acceptance of the greater things.

No pressing on to the better

Still clinging to the old ways

Still dependent upon the Law. (Inference here Chap 1-5 all the betters were the milk of the gospel

All these evidentiary statements of better were in fact just the milk.

ARE ON THE EDGE

Hanging in there by the skin of your last fingernail

If I just keep on keeping on saying "I will make it".

But there are so many things that are drawing me back into the old world

The prophets were good and sufficient for my people

The Angels were always there to help out. To proclaim course

directions

Moses was a great leader and He gave us the LAW. Isn't the

Proscribed letter of the Law ENOUGH.

And there will be a rest for Israel someday. Maybe the Zealots will make a plan to set Jerusalem up as the

Hebrews 5:11-14

Idea
2

On this point I have a great deal to say, which it is hard to make intelligible to you. For you have grown dull of hearing. Though by this time you should be teaching other people, you still need someone to teach you once more the rudimentary principles of the divine revelation. You are in need of milk, not solid food.

You would rather just stay where you are. One foot in the past and one foot in future future.

Introduction to a sermon of warning

Idea
3

- This section is the most important part of the whole letter.
- 5:11 - 6:12 should be seen as one unit
 - Not a place to proof text here and there.
 - It is one cohesive chain of thought
 - It must be considered as a message that is pointed to the specific time, place and audience.
 - The message is for the Saved in the Hebrew church
 - The message is for the Saved that are contemplating leaving
 - The message is for the Saved that have not gone on to understand their position before God
 - The message is for the Saved that simply do not understand the penalties of rejection and separation.

With this diagnoses of a group of edge keepers
almost gone

Their actions and reactions were one of “I JUST DON’T KNOW”

The whole of the Book of Hebrews was written to stem the tide of rejection.
The church was getting smaller

Persecution

Longing for the old traditions

Tired of the incriminations by family, neighbors and friends.

But Jesus is better

Prophets, Angels, Moses, High Priest

But for some, **better was not good enough.**

These Saved Hebrew Christians, on the edge, at a decision point

Well aware of the numbers of the church had already left

Well aware of the once beloved now no longer in the fellowship

Well aware of the feelings of LOSS.

Asking themselves WHY

See them around their towns, hanging around with the old crowd

Hear them mocking the “Better Jesus”

Saw them in the streets they simply refused to make eye contact.

Here, the preacher lays down the consequences of rejection.

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It must be considered as a message that is pointed to the specific time, place and audience.

The message is for the Saved in the Hebrew church

The message is for the Saved that are contemplating leaving

The message is for the Saved that have not gone on to understand their position
before God

The message is for the Saved that simply do not understand the penalties of
rejection and separation.

Therefore, let us move beyond the elementary teaching about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.

1. Therefore. All that we have talked about so far THE MILK Chapters 1-5
 Prophets, angels, moses, honor, rest, priests.
 All that stuff that was looked at and found being less,
Jesus is better
 BUT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU, IT IS NOT WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.
2. Is it time to move. To transition, give it up.. Let go. Go out the door, and leave. You don't have to go home but you can't stay here
 It is time to give up the easy stuff
3. Elementary teaching. All the teachings previously
 Chapters 1-5 lead up to this portion of teaching, or preaching
 All the previous was the easy stuff.
 Understood even by a baby.
4. the elementary teachings about the messiah (CHRIST) This was the milk
 Messiah was the transition point
 The teachings about how the messiah effected the promises and precepts of the
 Past
5. The **foundation** was set by God in all the things we talked about earlier.
 AGAIN - take up the trowel and pull it all up and build it again.
 it was created but once this foundation
6. The foundation of repentance from all the acts of sin and the belief in God.
 Acts of Sin caused repentance not the calling of God, the feeling of guilt. The inner
 compulsion of what is right and wrong (THE LAW)
 FAITH in God Faith that there was a god.
 Sadducees –no afterlife keeping the law was a reward in itself, you made you a
 good person
 Pharasees – an afterlift and keeping the law was the path to God. God made you a
 good person. Because of your works
7. So we need to be taken forward to something that was the meaning of the greatest belief of
 all.
 All that comes after this statement is the solid food.
 All that came before was the milk
 All that comes after is being taken forward to maturity

- All the teachings you have heard, you need to go further
 - The movement toward maturity stops rejection and rationalization
 - Rejection of the better of Jesus
 - Rejection of the sufficiency of Jesus
 - Rejection of any new revelation
 - Rationalization that the old ways are good enough
 - The foundation of Judaism
 - The foundation or repentance of the Day of Atonement (Acts of Death - Sins)
 - Rationalization of having Jesus as a part of life but not all of my life.
 - Rationalization that keeping the Law was the evidence of faith (Pharisees)
 - Cleansing rites
 - Laying on of hands
 - Resurrection of the dead
 - Eternal judgement

We will get to this understanding that all these old things are just pointers to the new.
 A great understanding of God without rationalizations. And Rejection.
 How one message melds into the new

NEW REVELATION REQUIRES NEW RECONCILIATION.....

“All these things, all these parts of the old covenant

“All these things we have talked about up to this point

“All these things like

not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works

“All these things like

Going back to a faith centered on God of the Jews

“All these things like

Ceremonial washings

All these thing like

the Resurrection of the dead which the Sadducees did not even believe in.

All these things like

Laying on of hands like you do when you offer your sacrifices.

All these things like

The eternal judgement associated with the Law.

ALL THESE THINGS WHICH HAS BEEN ARGUED, LEGISLATED, CODED, DEBATED, HAVE SPLIT BROTHER FROM BROTHER AND ARE STILL PART OF THE OLD STUFF.

All these things you want to go back to were By God’s grace part of what brought you to Jesus in the first place.

V3. God being my helper, I will teach you all the truths of the Gospel to get to that maturity we are talking about.

All the teachings you have heard, you need to go further

The movement toward maturity stops rejection and rationalization

Rejection of the better of Jesus

Rejection of the sufficiency of Jesus

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Rationalization that the old ways are good enough

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The foundation or repentance of the Day of Atonement (Acts of Death =

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Rationalization of having Jesus as a part of life but not all of my life.

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Cleansing rites

Laying on of hands

Resurrection of the dead

Eternal judgement

ARE YOU IN OR ARE YOU OUT - Consequences



- After rejection of teachings
- Rationalization of the old is good enough.

To go back is a sin

A rejection of Jesus

Jesus is not the hope

To reject after acceptance, to depend on the Old covenant for your relationship to God will not bring any advantage

- Enlightened
- Tasted of the heavenly gift
- Made partakers of the Holy Spirit
- Tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come
- Fallen away.
- Impossible to renew
- No place for repentance
- Crucify Jesus again in their lives
- Bring shame

6:6

Repentance, renewal simply not possible

the cross has no meaning

The blood is just another criminal's blood

There is no virtue in the very act of sacrifice

- Once known, loved , believed
 - Experienced. Saved, animated enlightening energy of the Holy Spirit
 - Lapse into indifference and unbelief
- The possibility of a fall is clearly assumed in this text
 - Some probably had already done so
- The sin is the giving up the gifts and powers that accompany Christ
 - They rejected that as being inadequate to meet their current needs
- The reason for the sin is a decision of recoil
 - A decision of contrary conviction
- Renewal is impossible because of the reliance on the LAW
 - The Law does not save
 - Only by grace and faith
- **The mindset here is one of total rejection and then not repenting of it**
- **It is place in a persons life where the heavenly unction is simply ignored**
 - **By an act of the will of man it loses its power of conviction**
- Shame. Any defection from a cause , who has been gleefully included and nurtured become one of the cadre
 - Puts that group that cadre to shame and ridicule.

Impossibility 6:4-7

Idea
6

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

What a cruel word, impossible

Could we just soften this up a bit.

Could we just know God did not mean impossible

Could it be just very difficult

Could it be just there are new hoops to jump through

A long list of things I could do to get back

NOPE.

IMPOSSIBLE

Very careful here. This cancer born death sentence is not a simple sin or two

This cancer born death sentence is not single decision

if you reject Jesus AND go back to your Judaism

Take the Hebrew law as your justifier

If you take the sacrificial system of the levites as your method of reconciliation

You have rejected totally the claims of Jesus.

You have put Jesus back on the cross. A cross with no meaning.

THEN FOR YOU, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE

Is God Cruel for condemnation of the apostate?

Idea
7

Though this seems hard, yet there is no reason to charge God with cruelty when one suffers the punishment of his own defection. It is a case of sin adding to sin, to a point of despising God, Spirit and Son

JOHN CALVIN

So can you loose it all?

Can you, after making the act of faith to know Jesus FALL AWAY

It is so sad

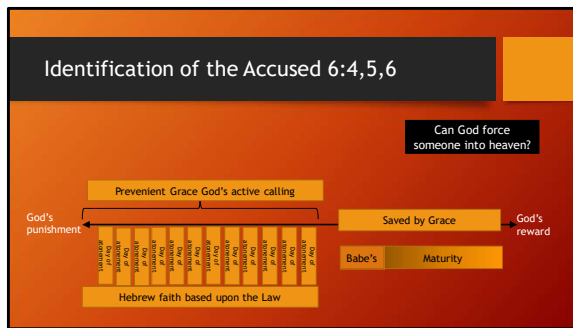
But it is possible that once you have made a commitment the sacrifice of Jesus to DEFECT

Not snatched from the hand of God

Not walking along and falling into a open man hole.

No something that can be done unaware

These who would walk away were simply saying all this Jesus stuff is stupid



Where do you put these who are accused. You are the jury.
 At what point do you think the writer of Hebrews would put the line
 I don't know where the line it but there is a line.

At what point does the individual simply stop turn around and tell themselves and all round them Jesus is a fake.

Could well use the word apostacy
 Unpardonable sin
 Beyond hope.

MY OPINION THERE ARE FEW IN THE CLASSIFICATION
 My opinion it takes a lot to get there
 CONTEXT

Is there a higher standard for the Jew to comes to Christ and then falls back.?

Is there a place where it is possible for any Christian to fall away?

Carefully here.

Fallen away is a very special word in the New Testament. Found only here
 To act covertly, treacherously as an adulterous woman against her husband.
 It is giving up completely and utterly
 There is no attraction to the things of God
 It is to forsake God and all His promises
 It is giving up one love for the love another.
 The writer here is very careful with these words.

Sentence of those who have left 6:7,8

Idea
8

- Allegory includes more than one metaphor
 - Not about the ground
 - Both receive rain
- First example
 - Vegetation useful for those who till
 - Receives a blessing from God
- Second example
 - Yields thorns and thistles
 - Worthless
 - Close to being cursed
 - Ends up being burned (to kill all the seeds)

The dirt is the same

The difference is the tilling and the care

“you should have seen it when God had it by himself”

God will deal with those who only produce thorns

Jesus is better

Therefore...

Application

- AFTER the terrible words of warning of Apostasy
- Beloved
- Two polarized groups
- What we are called to do
 - Be not sluggish
 - Be imitators of those who are patterns
 - Press on to maturity
 - Learn to be teachers
 - Partakers of solid food
 - Don't be a babe
 - Train to discern between good and evil

Beloved

I love you and I have to write plainly
It is love that causes me to say these things
Better to speak this way than you also would fall away

Listen carefully here.

If you hear nothing else
If you do not remember anything from the bible study

IN theology I have discovered

The extremes are most likely wrong

One group

Once and for all there is no possibility of falling away.
Perseverance of the saints.
One single act of repentance will open the doors of heaven
There is never a case where you may fall away
You weren't saved in the first place
You will make heaven no matter what
You will make it because it is God's perfect sovereign will Perfect election.
Problem there is How do I know I am going to make it
How do I know I am an elect
Do I have to wait until I die?
If so where is my assurance.....

Second group

You can never really know if you are saved or not Constant striving
depends upon each moment in which you live
One sin separates
One thought will seal your end
Accompanied with a constant cry for God's Grace
Becomes a life of spirituality like the Pharisees of Jesus time.
Cast down and filled with constant apprehension.
Can't even be close to a cause of sin
Rules and special rules to live by.
If so where is my assurance.....

This scripture has cause consternation in both groups


All I know is "we have the ability by our actions and belief and wills to put Jesus up
on a cross again

To fall away is not just letting go, a falling away from a hand hold on a rock face because you can't

hold on any longer

It includes –finding a better place to land and saying that place is, was and will be the only place I need to be.

Not just a relapse but a re-alignment



I'm sure that won't happen to you, friends. I have better things in mind for you—salvation things! God doesn't miss anything. He knows perfectly well all the love you've shown him by helping needy Christians, and that you keep at it. And now I want each of you to extend that same intensity toward a full-bodied hope, and keep at it till the finish. Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them.

V9-12 Go on to better things.

The BETTER THINGS.

Better things than to be moral dwarfs.
Better things than treating the Son disrespectfully.
Better things than to be withering in the flames.

THE SAVING THINGS.

Inward change.
Love to God and the brethren.
Prayer.
Assurance of Hope

Better things

Things that go with salvation

Things that need not be cursed or

Things that need not be burned

While milk is good for babes,

We all need to go further.