

## Hebrews Part One

### Lesson #23, Chapter 6:1-6

Anyone who has been a Christian for a while has heard the book of Hebrews described as “difficult” to understand. And our lesson in Chapter 6:1-6 is one of those debated sections of Hebrews. Properly identifying who “those/they” refer to in this text is essential. If we do not do so, it causes a cascade of doctrinal mayhem. By sticking closely to the text, we will uncover what God intends for us to understand about *us* and *them*.

1. In last week’s lesson the author of Hebrews said he had much to say to his readers, but it was hard to explain to them because they had become dull of hearing. Understanding his reader’s spiritual state did not deter him from his purpose, however. In Chapter 6:1 we see he did not waver in his intention to communicate more complex spiritual truths. What topic was he no longer going to address in 6:1?
2. Define *elementary* [Strong’s #746 (KJV *principles*)]. See also Heb. 5:12.
3. Notice the author of Hebrews wrote, *leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ*. What does the term “the Christ” mean? See Luke 24:46-47; Jn. 20:30-31; Acts 26:22-23; Jn. 1:41.
4. What are the elementary, foundational teachings about the Christ that the author has already taught his readers? See vss. 1 and 2.
5. What does *repentance from dead works* mean? See Acts 11:18; 20:21; Heb. 9:14; 10:1-4.
6. Coupled with a repentance from dead works is a *faith toward God*. What does that mean? See Heb. 11:6; Jn. 12:44; 14:1; 1 Pet. 1:21; 1 Jn. 5:10-13.

7. What does *instruction about washings* refer to? See Mark 7:1-7; Heb. 9:9-10. Why would this have been a necessary foundational truth for them to know?
  
8. Explain the significance of the *laying on of hands*. See Acts 6:6; 9:12, 17; 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6.
  
9. The Hebrews believers were also taught about *the resurrection of the dead*. What do you learn about this foundational truth? See Matt. 22:29-32; Jn. 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 2:30-32; 1 Cor. 15:12-19.
  
10. What foundational teaching did the Hebrews receive about *eternal judgment*? See Jn. 3:16-18; 5:22-24; Rom. 2:5-11.
  
11. What is the author of Hebrews' goal after moving on from the foundational truths about Christ? See vs. 1.
  
12. Define *press on* [Strong's #5342 (ESV, NIV, NKJV *go on*)].
  
13. Define *maturity* [Strong's #5047 (NKJV *perfection*)].
  
14. Describe what spiritual maturity looks like from the following verses: Heb. 5:12-14; 6:1; 12:12-13; Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28; 4:12.

15. What is an area of spiritual “childishness” you need to leave behind so that you can press on toward spiritual maturity? Now identify the steps necessary to do this. Are you willing to take these steps to grow more complete in Christ?
  
16. This commitment to press on to a more complete faith in Christ is balanced by the author’s statement in vs. 3. What is the statement of vs. 3? What does it communicate? Why is that a good reminder for any endeavor we undertake? See also Acts 18:21; 1 Cor. 4:19; 16:7; James 4:15.
  
17. The author of Hebrews makes a pronoun switch beginning in vs. 4. In vss. 1-3 he used the pronouns \_\_\_\_\_. Now in vss. 4-6 he uses the pronouns \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. What does that switch in pronouns indicate?
  
18. What 5 things do you learn about the group identified as those from vss. 4-5?
  
19. What happened to *those* after they experienced the 5 things mentioned in vss. 4-5? The answer is found in vs. 6.
  
20. What do we know about those who fall away? Another name for this group is *unbeliever*. See Heb. 10:37-39; 2 Pet. 2:20-22 and 1 Jn. 2:19.
  
21. What do we know about those who do not fall away? Another name for this group is *believer*. See John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35, 38-39; Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:4-5.

22. Define *fallen away* [Strong's #3895].
23. The author of Hebrews was doing all he could in this letter to protect his readers from the pernicious influence of the false teachers who promoted a return to the sacrificial system as a means of salvation. What warning do we need to heed? See Heb. 3:12-13; 4:1-3, 11; 1 Tim. 4:1.
24. The author of Hebrews described a group of people who had been part of the church body and enjoyed its blessings and benefits, but then fell away. They wanted to employ works in their salvation, thereby rejecting the Christ who was crucified on their behalf. This was a dangerous place to be, having enjoyed the blessings of the Word and the fellowship of the saints; they then turned their backs on the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was not just that they fell into sin and turned away from God for a time. This group heard the gospel, considered it, and then decided it was insufficient, and so rejected God's message of redemption. What is the danger of rejecting Christ's perfect and complete gift of salvation? See vs. 6; Heb. 2:2-3; 10:26-27; 12:25.
25. List three things you learned from Heb. 6:1-6.

Charles Spurgeon on whether believers can lose their salvation: "You cannot imagine surely that a person can be regenerated twice; if the work of regeneration is accomplished once, and it does not save the soul, then there is no salvation for it. That is all God ever will do, and therefore do I bless and glorify His name that there never was and never shall be an instance in which He has made a man a new creature in Christ Jesus, and, then the work of grace has failed."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 43*, electronic ed., Logos Library System (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).