**Hebrews 6**

**Solemn Warning and Great Assurance**

Hebrews Review

The Greatness of Jesus:

**1. Greater than the prophets. Hebrews 1:1-3**

**2. Greater than the angels. Hebrews 1:4-14**

**3. Greater than Moses. Hebrews 3:1-5**

**4. Jesus the Great High Priest. Hebrews 4:14-5:10**

**5. Jesus is greater than Abraham. 6:13-18, 7:4-5**

**6. Greater than the Levitical Priesthood. 7:1-28**

**7. A Better Covenant. Hebrews 8:1-13**

**8. A better Tabernacle Hebrews 9:1-11.**

**9. A perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 9:12-10:18.**

Exhortations:

**Exhortation #1 Pay careful attention 2:1-4**

**Exhortation #2 Make every effort. 3:7-4:13**

**Exhortation #3 Move on to maturity 5:11-6:12**

**Exortation #4 Draw near to God, do not shrink back. 10:19-39**

**Exhortation #5 Live by faith. 11:1-40**

Our sermon:

I. Solemn Warning Against Falling Away

II. Assurance of Salvation.

**I. Warning Against Falling Away**

6:1 You are not ready, but I am going to go on anyway! (presumably, some of them were ready)

[the context is Hebrews 5:11-14 Move on to maturity]

6:1-2 Elementary teachings *stoicheia* = the ABCs

a. repentance (some still struggle with this)

b. faith

c. baptism (*baptismos* Some struggle with the fact that salvation is not available except upon baptism)

d. the Holy Spirit In the early church, they layed hands on the baptized person as a symbol of receiving the HS. This is what “laying on of hands refers to.

e. Resurrection

f. Judgment (some are sentimental and struggle with the idea of hell)

These are the basics. When going to maturity, let us not lose the basics.

What is the point of going on to maturity? 6:4-8 Warning against falling away.

This is sober, this is emotional stuff.

You could lose everything you have!!!!

In fact, you could end up worse off than you were at first. (2 Pet 2:20-22)

Just in case there was any doubt who the Hebrew writer is talking about:

Heb 6:4-5

a. been enlightened (NT church “enlightened” = baptized)

b. tasted the heavenly gift (salvation?)

c. shared in the Holy Spirit

d. tasted the goodness of the word

e. tasted the coming age (saved, resurrection)

Impossible…. if you fall away…. to be renewed to repentance.

Why? Publicly crucifying Jesus again! Spitting on Jesus.

To explain, let us go to Hebrews 10:26-31

What kind of sin will cause us to fall away?

1. Continual

2. Deliberate Numbers 15:22-24 (unintentional) vs Numbers 15:30-31 (defiantly)

Also: Lev 4:1,13, 5:14-15 unintentional sin

Hebrew writer uses Deuteronomy 17:2-7 Those guilty of deliberate sin were stoned to death.

For us in Christ, will God take our sin less seriously? No! “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.?

God’s patience is astounding but

God’s judgment is intense

To summarize:

* Crucifying the Son of God all over again. (Hebrews 6:6)
* Subjecting Jesus to public disgrace. (Hebrews 6:6)
* Trampling the Son of God under foot. (Hebrews 10:29)
* Showing disdain for the blood of Jesus. (Hebrews 10:29)
* Insulting the Holy Spirit (Heb 10:29)

This is the unforgivable sin 1 John 5:16

This is blaspheming the Holy Spirit Matt 12:32

Q: Is this you/me? Well, you are here this morning. You are still in the fight, so NO!!!!!

[aside: Jesus used the term “fall away on account of me in a different sense, so do not be legalistic about the terminology]

Back to Hebrews 6

Heb 6:7-8 If your life is producing thorns, you are in “imminent danger” danger of being cursed.

**II. Assurance of Salvation**

Hebrews 6:9-20

6:9 but… “We are convinced of better things in your case.”

The Hebrew writer feels he might have gone too far in his warnings… Beloved

 **v. 9 What are the things which accompany (are produced by) salvation?**

Answer: v. 10 He will not forget the work and love you have show him. (see Hebrews 10:32-35)

Assurance: He will not forget this! (illustration: climbing Mt. Whitney)

Illustration: You who moved here to Merced. You who shared your faith on campus….

6:11-12 The solution: work hard, love God, help his people, ***be diligent to the end.***  The Hebrew writer is concerned he has come across too hard. He needs to encourage us. (beloved v. 9) Put up with the arid times in your faith. If you persevere, times of blessing will come. In any case, you will be saved.

Ex: Liz and I got to see Nevada falls and Half Dome.

v. 12 Do not become lazy in your Christianity. Imitate those in Hebrews 11.

6:13-end God’s assurance. (and Jesus greater than Abraham) He will take care of you if you hang in there.

How confident does God want us to be of our salvation? He swears it!

Promise here three times. 15 times in Hebrews—more than any other Bible book.

v. 13 God swore by himself: Song: “I Swear… by the moon and the stars in the sky, I’ll be there…

Like the movie Oh God! So help me me.

Why would God swear? Because he wants us to be confident!

v. 14 We need to be patient, like Abraham. God will deliver on his promises.

God swore on oath (Genesis 22:16-18) Genesis 22:16 “As I live”

[God has only done this twice. Gen 22:16 and Ps 110:4 So not only is the Promise to Abraham sure, the promise that Jesus is the perfect High Priest is also sure. (Heb 7:20-22)]

v. 17 Why did God do this? God wanted us to be very confident.

4 impossible things in Hebrews

a. 6:4 to be renewed to repentance once fallen away.

b. 6:18 for God to lie

c. 10:4 for the blood of bulls and goats to remove sin

d. 11:6 to please God without faith.

 v. 18 “Two unchangeable things” 1. God’s word 2. Himself.

The word promise here three times. 15 times in Hebrews—more than any other Bible book.

Vs 18 Take hold of the hope. [remind of Mt. Whitney illustration.]

Brothers and sisters: We need to cling onto our hope tenaciously.

You have an anchor. Jesus is there and he is not moving.

Commentators: Is the anchor the hope we have in Jesus or is it the promise of Jesus? Both!

Your anchor is behind the veil.

“Behind the veil” Means that Jesus is with the father, interceding for us.

The “anchor” is Jesus forerunnerhood (v. 20) (*prodromos*), his firstfruithood as a priest in the heavenly tabernacle.

Jesus is like a scout who check ahead that all is clear.

Hebrews 10:19-22. We can enter boldly.

He is the firstfruit of a greater number in the heavenly tabernacle.

It is your High Priest Jesus. Jesus in the Holy of Holies is our assurance.

Summary: If only you do not turn back, you can be assured of your salvation. You do not have to do amazing. You can struggle. Sometimes you will just hang on to the anchor. You may be like Lot who barely escaped, but at least he did not look back. 2 Pet 2:7 Lot, a righteous man…

The secret to salvation is this: Just keep walking by faith.

But let us decide to do more than simply keep walking.

Let us resolve to do the things which are produced by salvation.

Let us work and let us love.