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A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

## Hebrews 6:4

For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

- What a sobering passage!
- There is an awful possibility.
- And what causes that possibility?

- Many try to make this person someone who is truly not a Christian somehow.
- But this will not work for two reasons.

- The first reason is  
the description will not allow it.
- This is a Christian who has:
  - Been enlightened,
  - Tasted the heavenly gift,
  - Shared in the Holy Spirit,
- Tasted the goodness of God's word  
and the powers of the age to come.
  - The description  
will not allow that this is  
a fake Christian.

- The second reason is  
that the writer  
is offering a warning.

- The writer is not  
talking to people  
outside of the church.

- He is talking to the people  
in the pews.

- How do we know?

- He just told them:
  - That they are dull of hearing,
- Need to leave behind the elementary teachings of Christ,
- And press on to maturity.

- As startling as it is to see that someone who has enjoyed the  blessings of God  could fall away,
- It is more startling to hear what the author declares  in verse 6.
- That it is impossible  to restore this person  to repentance.

- He is writing to Christians and offering another warning, as he has throughout this book.

- These are people who were genuinely converted but then have fallen away.

- This is not  
a new teaching  
in the book of Hebrews.
- The author warned back in  
Hebrews 3:12  
about the wilderness generation:
  - Who saw the miracles
  - Experienced God's deliverance
  - But had an evil, unbelieving heart  
leading them to fall away  
from the Lord.

- And why would Paul warn the brethren of such danger were it not possible?
- It is possible to be “enlightened” and still be in the dark.
- Such was the case of Simon the Magician.  
(**Acts 8**).

- Some are like the man Jesus healed.

- **Mark 8:24**

*And he looked up, and said,  
I see men as trees, walking.*

- **8:25** *After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.*

- They have become also partakers of the Holy Ghost,
- Not merely within the range of His influence,
- But actually shared it;
  - All of the Apostles had received the Holy Spirit.  
(**John 20:22-23**)
- This included Judas.

- Why would Paul warn Christians about falling away if it was not possible.
- The Galatian brethren were warned:

- Galatians 5:4

**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; you are fallen from grace.**

- Brethren were warned in the Revelation letter regarding their “candlestick” being removed. (**Rev 2-3**).

- Apostle Paul warned of being “castaway”.

• **1Co 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that you may obtain.

**9:25** And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

**9:26** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beats the air:

**9:27** But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- 2 Peter 2:20

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

- **If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death,**
  - **he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death.**
  - **There is sin that leads to death;**
- **I do not say that one should pray for that.**
- **All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.**

**(1 John 5:16–17 ESV)**

- **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,**
- **but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**
- **For to set the mind on the flesh is death,**
  - **but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**
- **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.**  
**(Romans 8:5–7 ESV)**

- **“You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD:  
When men fall, do they not rise again?
  - **If one turns away, does he not return?**
  - **Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding?
    - **They hold fast to deceit;**
    - **They refuse to return.****
  - **I have paid attention and listened, but they have not spoken rightly;**
  - **No man relents of his evil, saying, ‘What have I done?’****
- **Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle.”**  
**(Jeremiah 8:4–6 ESV)**

- You will notice that God addressed the same problem with Jeremiah regarding Israel in his day.
  - They also have fallen.
- But if that person turns away, he/she can return.

- Why does Israel continue to remain in this lost condition of perpetual backsliding?
- They hold fast to their deceit.
  - They refuse to return.
    - When you “will not” you cannot!

- The intention of the author is not to cause Christians to wonder if they are saved.
- The warning is that if we do not move on to maturity, there is a danger of falling back.

- **The Christian** does not sin once and is lost forever.
- There is a **process** of falling away.
  - It begins with spiritual **laziness** and **apathy**.
    - It begins by staying in the **milk** and not progressing to the **meat** of the scriptures.

- The Situation Illustrated  
(**Hebrews 6:7-8**)
- Now the author is going to illustrate this truth
  - So we can see why, for those who have fallen away, it is impossible to bring them to repentance.

- The land drinks in the rain that falls on it.
- The land that produces a useful crop receives a blessing from God.
- However, the land that receives the rain but bears thorns and thistles is worthless, receives a curse, and will be burned in the end.

- The picture is simple.

- **Fruitfulness**

receives a **blessing** from God  
but thorn and thistles  
receive a **curse**.

- **You will know**

the kind of ground  
your heart is  
by the fruit produced.

- **Our Hope**  
(**Hebrews 6:9-12**)
- Now the author has confidence that these Christians **will heed his warning** and move forward in Christ, growing in the Lord.

- **Listen to the second hope**  
he gives in **verse 10**.
- **God is not unjust**  
to not see their  
**work** and **love**  
that they have shown.
- **God sees our fruit**.
- God **knows** what  
we are trying to do.

- In light of such warning,  
**what shall we do?**

- Let us think  
about Christ  
as  
the **Apostle** and **High Priest**.

- It will serve to  
**increase our faith in him.**

- It will make us all more humble, more prayerful,
- And more earnest in our endeavors to *"live soberly, and righteously, and godly."*  
(**Titus 2:12**)

- How very different would be  
both the Church  
and the world today.
  - How many of those  
that are now eternally lost,  
might today be rejoicing  
“*among the spirits of  
the just made perfect.*”  
(**Hebrews 12:23**)

- **Let us not forget**
- The Church of God is the house of God, as it is written,  
***"I will dwell in them,  
and walk in them;  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be  
my people."***  
**(2 Cor. 6:16.)**

- Why, then, do we not draw nigh to him *who has come so very near to us?* (**Hebrews 10:22**)

- Why not, like Enoch and Moses, walk with him, *as seeing him who is invisible?* (**Hebrews 11:27**)

- Why not avoid everything that is offensive in his sight, such as the *lusts of the flesh*, *the lusts of the eye*, *and the pride of life*?  
(1 John 2:16)

- And why not,  
like Christ,  
humbly endeavor  
*to do the will of God*  
*in all things?*  
(**Hebrews 10:7**)

- Surely this is but  
our highest happiness,  
as it is also our most  
*reasonable service.*  
(**Romans 12:1**)

- With such warnings and admonitions before us it is all folly to rely for happiness on the imaginary and prevalent doctrine of

“Once saved, always saved.”

“He that endures to the end shall be saved.”

(**Matthew 10:22.**)

- It is not enough that we have confessed Christ, and that we have been actually washed from our past sins in his blood.
  - We must also continue to persevere in well-doing,
    - seeking for honor,
      - and glory,
        - and immortality,
- if we would enjoy eternal life.  
(Romans 2:7.)

- ***"For if we sin willfully,  
after that we have received  
the knowledge of the truth,  
there remains  
no more  
sacrifice for sins."  
(Hebrews 10:26.)***

- ***"Let him that thinks  
he stands,  
take heed lest he fall."  
(1 Cor. 10:12.)***

- Our greatest want  
has always been  
a want of faith in God  
and in the word of his grace  
(**Hebrews 6:18-19**).
- It was a lack of faith  
that first brought sin  
into the world.  
(**Gen. 3:6.**)

- It was a lack of faith  
that filled  
the antediluvian earth  
with violence,  
and brought in  
a flood of waters  
on the ungodly.  
(**Genesis 6**)

- **It was a lack of faith**  
that brought down  
fire and brimstone from Heaven  
on **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**,  
and made these  
cities of the plain  
a monument of  
God's hatred of sin.  
(**Genesis 13**)

- **It was a lack of faith**  
that brought down  
God's judgments  
**on his own chosen people**  
in the wilderness and in Canaan,
  - And that has made  
their descendants  
a **proverb** and a **byword**  
in every nation under Heaven.  
(**Deuteronomy 28:37**)

- And it will be **a lack of faith** that will shut the gates of Heaven against millions who will seek to enter into God's rest **when it is too late.**  
(**Luke 13:24-30.**)

- No wonder, then,  
that our blessed Savior  
**sums up all sin**  
under the head of unbelief.

- "***When he  
the Comforter  
is come,  
he will convict  
the world of sin,  
because they  
believe not on me.***"  
(**John 16:9.**)

- ***Let us all beware,  
lest there be also  
in any of us  
an evil heart  
of unbelief  
in apostatizing  
from the living God.  
(Hebrews 3:12)***

- **Our lesson for today**

speaks of those

- who had been

**highly privileged,**

- But who

**did not**

improve their opportunities,

but wretchedly

**perverted them.**

- Who had brought **shame** and **reproach** on the cause of Christ;
- And who were in such a hopeless condition that it was **"impossible to renew them again unto repentance."**

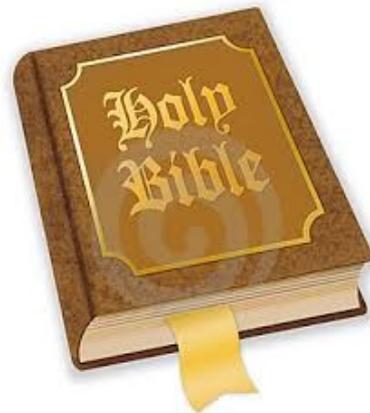
- Well does it become each one of us to earnestly lift up his/her heart to God, beseeching Him to prevent us making *such a shipwreck of the faith.* (1 Timothy 1:19)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



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