

The Epistle To The Hebrews

A verse by verse study...



Background to Hebrews

- The Church in Jerusalem:
 - Had already lost Stephen Acts 7:59,60
 - James the Apostle Acts 12:2
 - Others Acts 8:1-3,26:10
- The Church in Galatia was also now facing persecution: Gal 1:22
 - Principally from the legalistic Jews who saw Christianity as a rejection of the Law
- The temptation was to revert to Judaism to avoid persecution

Author's Objectives?

- Combat possible apostasy 2:1-4, 10:19-25
- Encourage them to press on to Spiritual maturity 5:11-14, 10:32-39
- Comfort them in their persecutions 11:1-12:3

New Testament

Gospels & Acts - 5

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Paul's Epistles - 13

Romans

1, 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1, 2 Thessalonians

1, 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrew Epistles - 8

Hebrews

James

1, 2 Peter

1, 2, 3, John

Jude

Prophetic - 1

Revelation

*"The Just . . .
Shall Live . . .
By Faith . . ."*

Habakkuk 2:4

Habakkuk 2:4

- Habakkuk 2:4 has led to a Trilogy of epistles in NT.

“The Just Shall Live by Faith”

- The Just... (Who are they?) **Romans** Rom 1:17
- ...Shall live (...by Grace) **Galatians** Gal 3:11
- ...By Faith! (How to...) **Hebrews** Heb 10:39
- Each of these epistles use **Habakkuk 2:4** as a cornerstone

The Epistle to the Hebrews

- **Jesus: The New and Better Deliverer** **1-7**
 - The God-man: better than the Angels - 1, 2
 - **Warning #1** (of 5) - **2:1-4**
 - An Apostle better than Moses - 3
 - **Warning #2** (of 5) - **3:17-4:13**
 - A Leader better than Joshua - 4:1-13
 - A Priest better than Aaron - 4:14 – 5:10
 - **Warning #3** (of 5) - **5:11-6:20**
 - A Priest after the order of Melchizedek - 7
- **Calvary: A New and Better Covenant** **8 – 10:17**
 - A Better Sanctuary - 9
 - A Better Sacrifice - 10:17
- **Practical Applications** **10:18 -13**
 - **Warning #4** (of 5) - **10:18-31**
 - Hall of Faith - 11
 - Exhortation to Endurance - 12 - 13
 - **Warning #5** (of 5) - **12:25-29**

5 Major Warnings



WARNING

1. Drifting 2:1-4
2. Disobedience 3:7-4:13
3. Failing to Mature 5:11-6:20
4. Willful Sin 10:26-39
5. Indifference 12:25-29

- *Great loss awaits those who fail to persevere: loss of reward and honor in Christ's coming Millennial Kingdom*

 **WARNING**

no. #1

The Danger of Drifting

#1 The Danger of Drifting

Hebrews 2:1-4

- We must give ‘earnest heed’ to the things which we have heard, *“lest at any time we should let them slip”*.
 - We must not get complacent!
 - Our lifestyle matters!
 - Our devotional life matters!
 - Our prayer life matters!
 - Our time in His Word matters!

#1 The Danger of Drifting

Hebrews 2:1-4

- We must give ‘earnest heed’ to the things which we have heard, *“lest at any time we should let them slip”*.
 - Just 1 degree off and we can miss by miles!
 - Our attitude to forgiveness matters
 - Our attitude to our spouse matters
 - Our attitude to other believers matters
 - Our attitude toward the unsaved matters

#1 The Danger of Drifting

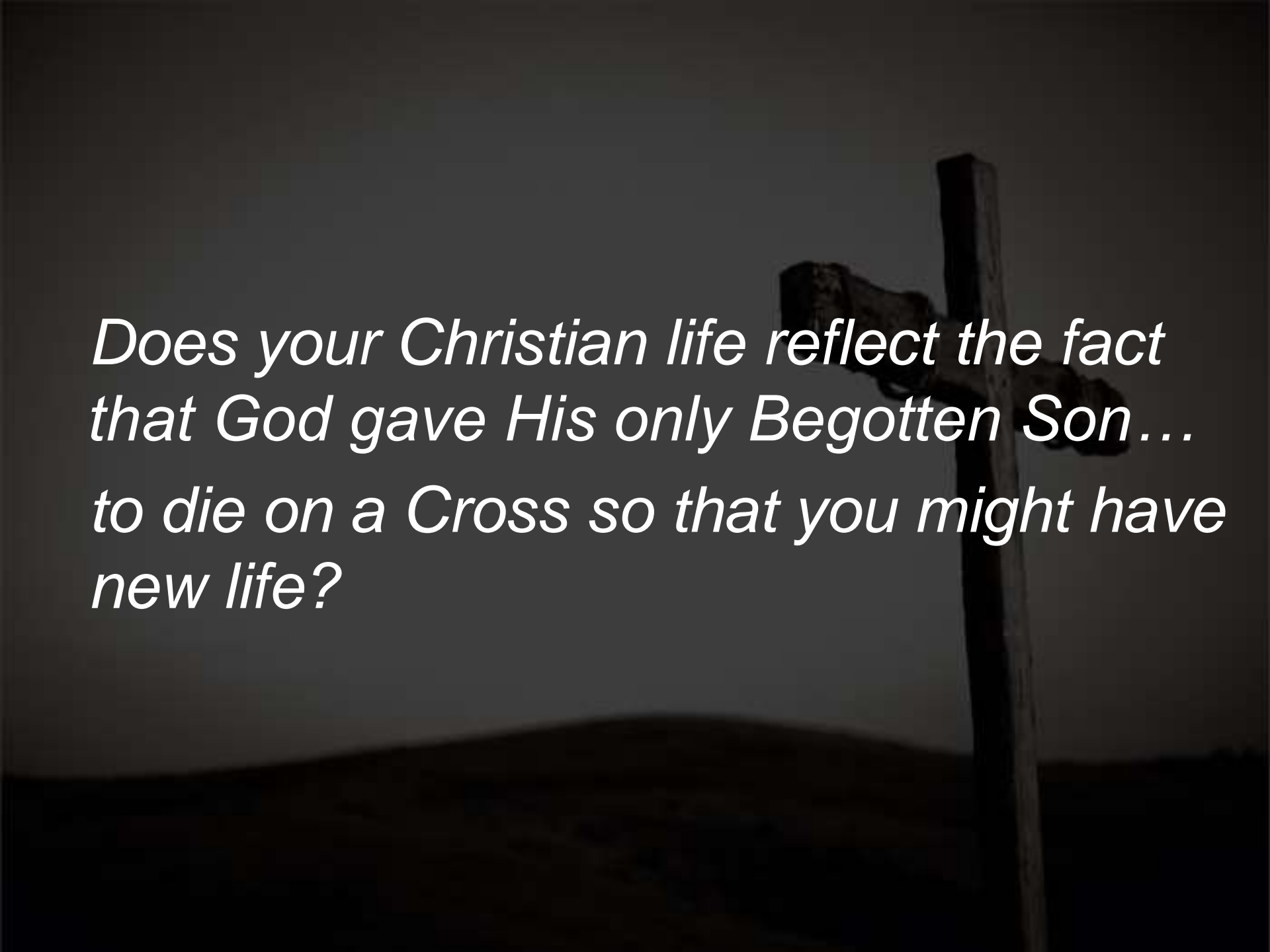
Hebrews 2:1-4

- We must give ‘earnest heed’ to the things which we have heard, *“lest at any time we should let them slip”*.
 - God is not mocked!
 - Our vocabulary matters
 - Who we spend time with matters
 - The things we allow to influence us matter
 - Our attitude toward Spiritual things matters
 - Our love for His Word matters

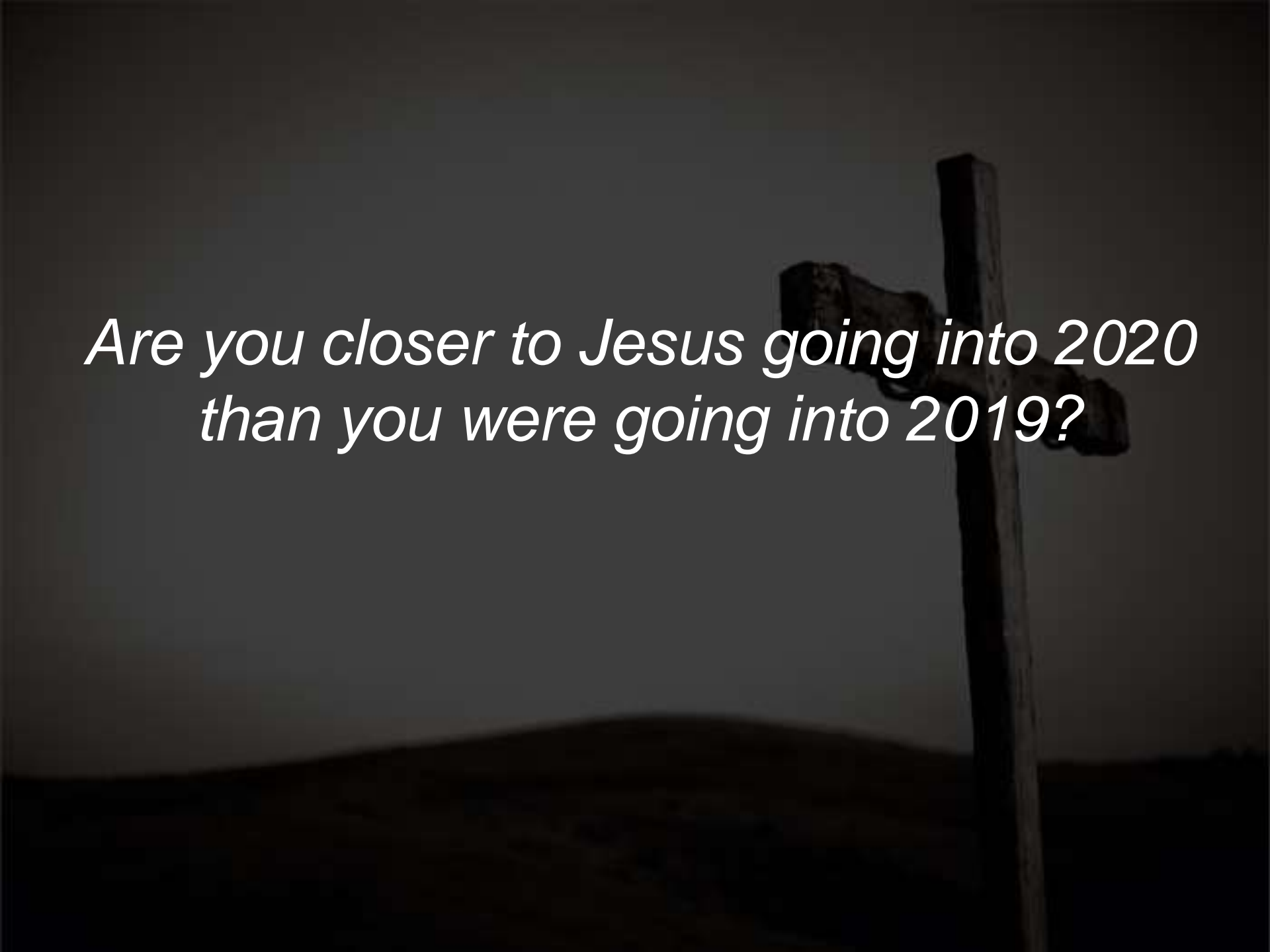
#1 The Danger of Drifting

Hebrews 2:1-4

- If there was a judgement on those who failed to follow the Law (given by angels)...
- *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation”* 2:3
 - Do you think you can ‘get away’ with living a ‘nominal’ Christian life?
 - Do you think that God is ‘OK’ with ‘your offering’ when He expected so much from Israel? 1 Cor 3
 - What does *your* offering look like?
 - ‘Neglect’ means to ‘make light of’
 - ‘Treat it as if it cost little’



*Does your Christian life reflect the fact
that God gave His only Begotten Son...
to die on a Cross so that you might have
new life?*

A wooden cross stands on a hillside, silhouetted against a dark, overcast sky. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The background shows a dark, rolling landscape under a heavy, grey sky. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

*Are you closer to Jesus going into 2020
than you were going into 2019?*

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a wooden cross standing in a field. The cross is made of weathered wood and is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a dark, hazy landscape with rolling hills under a dim sky. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Have you drifted?

 **WARNING**

no. #2

The Danger of
Disobedience

#2 The Danger of Disobedience

Hebrews 3:7-4:13

- Israel failed to enter the Promised Land at Kadesh Barnea through fear and unbelief
- They missed out on God's best because they did not trust God!
- They failed to 'enter His rest' because they trusted their own wisdom
 - These were God's people, whom He had rescued from Egypt!
- They ended up striving rather than resting
- Are you striving today?

Antidote to Disobedience

For we are made **partakers** of Christ,
if we hold the beginning of our confidence
steadfast unto the end;

Hebrews 3:14

me,tocoi metochoi

one who shares in, companion, comrade;
partner (in a work, office, or dignity)

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What is a “Partaker”?

- The word “partake” means to be a participant in something. (2 Pet.1:3-4)
Partaking of Christ’s Life means not only receiving His Life in our spirits, but also living that Life out in our souls
 - Partaking of *His* Life is what leads us to overcoming
 - It’s Christ’s overcoming Life
 - His Love, His wisdom and His power
 - we are simply partaking of it

What is a “Partaker”?

- Being a partaker *in* Christ (justification) is not the same thing as being a partaker *of* Christ (sanctification) (1 Cor.10:17)
- These are believers who have not only “received” Christ’s Life (Col.1:27) at their new birth, but are now “living” His Life

The Purpose of Being a “Partaker”

- God’s purpose for the “exchanged life” (*or being a “partaker”*) is so that we might produce “fruit” (*Gr. karpos*)
 - “Fruit” is that which is produced by the Spirit of God through us
 - It’s the “Fruit of righteousness” (Eph.5:9; Phil.1:11)
- However, without a continual co-death with Christ, there will be no “fruit”
- The reverse is actually true...
- Failure to partake will lead to disobedience

The Purpose of Being a “Partaker”

- John 15:4-5 tells us that only *if* we “abide in Him,” will fruit result
- “Fruit” is the result of partaking of Christ’s Life
- You can only serve one master...

 **WARNING**

no. #3

The Danger of not
maturing

#3 The Danger of not Maturing

Hebrews 5:11-6:20

- We should be going onto perfection
- We should not be *'tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine'*
- We should be progressing to solid food
 - The real danger if we do not is that we might *'fall away'* (deviate from the right path)
- We can lose the precious gift of repentance
- Our conscience can become seared and past feeling
- Sin no longer makes us grieve

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,

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

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.

Hebrews 6:4-6

What is at stake?

- What are these believers going to lose, forfeit, or suffer?
 - Not “salvation” John 10:28,29; et al
 - Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ
- We cannot escape this by applying it to others
- The burden of ‘Hebrews’ is *not* the rescuing sinners from hell:
It is the bringing of sons to glory

 **WARNING**

no. #4

The Danger of Willful Sin

#4 The Danger of Willful Sin

Hebrews 10:26-31

- If we drift, fail to bear fruit, refuse to mature
'sin lies at the door'
- Our hardened hearts were already prone to sinning... (we need no encouragement!)
- If we de-value the blood of Christ... treat His sacrificial death for us as a trivial thing...
 - Which will be evidenced by the way we live
- ...there is no 'plan B', no other way to be restored to a right relationship with God

Cf. Heb 10:23-25 vs. 10:26-29

#4 The Danger of Willful Sin

Hebrews 10:26-31

- Unless you 'eat His flesh' and 'drink His blood' you have no life within you
- Unless you are willing, consciously, and repeatedly identified with the blood of Christ, His Resurrection Power will have no impact in your life
- Paul wanted to 'know Christ crucified'... to be 'conformed unto His death'... to 'know the 'power of His resurrection'

Cf. 1 Cor 2:2, Phil 3:10.

#4 The Danger of Willful Sin

Hebrews 10:26-31

- God will judge His people

Deut 32:35-36

- It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God

 **WARNING**

no. #5

The Danger of
Indifference

#5 The Danger of Indifference

Hebrews 12:25-29

- Consider who it is that speaks to you
 - Israel suffered for not listening to Moses!
- At that time the earth shook
- There will be another shaking:
 - *“that those things which cannot be shaken may remain”*
 - *“let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”*
- For our God is a consuming fire. (ref 1 Cor 3)

The Unity of the 5 Warnings

- All five warnings are a unit
 - They go together and complement each other
 - Each builds upon the other
 - Each intensifies until the 5th capstone
- The writer relies heavily on Israel's Exodus as an example (type) of individual Christians
 - The Exodus generation, a redeemed people, failed to heed God's instructions
 - They *were* saved from Egypt
 - But were judged (disinherited) for their disobedience.

The 5 Warnings – Summary

1. Drifting 2:1-4
 - The stragglers got picked off. How can you escape
2. Disobedience 3:7-4:13
 - You will not enter His rest. You will be continually striving
3. Failing to Mature 5:11-6:20
 - You will lose the gift of repentance
 - You will become numb to sin & forfeit rewards
4. Willful Sin 10:26-39
 - God is not mocked. You will reap what you sow!
5. Indifference 12:25-29
 - You will forfeit your inheritance

5 Warnings of Hebrews:

- All were written to believers
 - Do not represent any chance of loss to the past aspect of salvation: justification
 - Hence, the eternal security of the Believer
- The warnings admonish believers to press on and obtain all God has promised to the faithful Overcomer
- The warnings represent the very real possibility of the loss of privileges or rewards offered to the believer, which will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ

The Epistle To The Hebrews

A verse by verse study...

Are you ready for this journey?

Hebrews

Superior to Angels
The great God spoke to our forefathers
in many ways, but in these last days he
has spoken to us by his Son, whom he ap-
pointed as heir of all things, and through
whom the universe was created. The Son is
the radiance of the glory of God and the
exact imprint of his nature, who has
sustained all things by his word of power.
After he had provided purification for
ourselves, he will appear a second time,
and will be accompanied by those who
have believed in him, to bring us to
glory.

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn
into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."
⁷In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels winds,
his servants flames of fire."
⁸But about the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, will last
forever and ever.
and righteousness will be
of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness
above hate, you
have despised
dishonour above
honour, because
you were
not afraid of
the threat of
anger, for you
were
convinced that
God is greater
than any
punishment."
The Son is
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of the glory
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