



Sunday, August 22, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 6:1-20

The question of whether or not a person can lose their salvation is a perennial one for many Christians. Since the Christian life is a constant battle against sin, the flesh, and the devil, we can sometimes become discouraged and wonder whether the faith we thought we had at one time was ever real. Then we come to a passage like Hebrews 6:4-6 and we really start to panic! What if I only “tasted” the real thing? What if it’s not possible for me to come back to Christ?

Take heart! As Pastor Don said Sunday, sadly, it is often the true believers who begin to worry when they read a passage like this and those who ought to take heed and wake up often continue in their apathy. If you are still battling sin, that’s a good sign you are alive spiritually! Staying in the fight is a sign of perseverance. Don’t give up!

However, everyone who comes to this passage ought to be concerned in one sense. Everyone who reads this passage ought to realize how serious the life of faith is. Faith in Christ is a matter of life and death, it’s not something to mess around with. If we find ourselves “playing” at Christianity, then we ought to repent and come back to Christ. So, let us take it seriously, but for those who do take it seriously, do not let it discourage you.

Context

Perseverance becomes a dominant theme throughout much of the rest of Hebrews. The author is essentially warning his readers to maintain their allegiance to Christ in the midst of the temptation to return to Judaism. Our temptation may not be to turn to Judaism, but we are constantly tempted to abandon Christ for one reason or another. Let us hold fast our confession of faith until the end (Heb. 3:12-14)!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 6:1-20

“Move Forward”

Moving Forward 6.1-3

- This is what true believers do!

Six Foundational Features

- Repentance and faith
- Washing and laying on of hands
- Resurrection and eternal judgment

Falling Away 6.4-6

- This is what true believers don't do!

What is clear?

- True believers don't lose their salvation
- If you could lose it—can't get it back
- Real believers can backslide
- Falling away is serious business

What is probable?

- Hypothetical scenario
- Superficial scenario

The birthmark of a true believer is perseverance!

Discuss

- 1) How clear are you on the six foundational elements of Christianity mentioned in verses 1-2?
- 2) Have you ever had a period of backsliding in your walk with the Lord? What was that like?
- 3) What has been the greatest challenge recently to your perseverance in the faith?
- 4) Read v. 9-12 again. Why is the author sure of better things for his readers? How closely does your life match the description of them?
- 5) Read v. 13-20 again. What is the “anchor of the soul”? How much does it anchor you?