

Hebrews 6:1-12

INTRODUCTION

1. Let us go on unto perfection. Not standing still in religion underlies the whole passage. To pass into God's kingdom means to move with it.
  1. It is impossible to maintain a halt in the Christian life; to stand still is to fall away.
  2. No such things as "holding our own" in any matter. "Holding our own" we are simply going back. (Heb. 6:1)
2. THEREFORE leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.
  1. The word THEREFORE is illative, that is; showing the connection with what precedes with what follows.
    - (1) Paul had just said (Heb. 5:12-14) that some long in the church of the Lord were still on a bottle: MILK FED. Now he tells us that we are to advance out of this state of spiritual infancy (Heb. 6:1,2) into a state of full maturity in the knowledge of the Lord.
3. Not laying again the foundation. The first thing necessary in any building is to lay a foundation, and to lay it well.
  1. The man who neglects this building principle, and who, without proper foundation, begins to build a building, will never be a competent builder in anything: Christianity (Matt. 7:24-29), a barn or a 125 story building.
  2. Just beginning to build a building will never accomplish anything, though the foundation is necessary. The superstructure is equally necessary to the successful completion of the building.
  3. Just as a foundation is necessary to a good building, there are certain fundamental principles, belonging to the religion of Christ, a clear and correct understanding of which is essential to all right progress, going on unto perfection in the Christian life.

IN GOING ON UNTO PERFECTION; SOME THINGS NECESSARY. Somethings to be left behind:

1. All elementary principles of Christianity here laid down. They are six in number:
  1. Repentance from dead works. Heb. 6:1 Two things involved:
    - (1) Repentance: Change of understanding; feeling; will; conduct.
    - (2) Dead works: May mean the works of the Law but this use is too limited. In its widest sense would embrace everything from which the sinner is to turn. Gal. 5:19
  2. Faith toward God. Heb. 6:1. Two things involved:
    - (1) Faith. What is faith? It is the basis of learning. What you have been taught. You may believe it or not. Faith come by hearing. Rom. 10:17.
    - (2) God. Faith in God and Christ, the first element of gospel faith is belief. John 20:30,31: An many other signs did Jesus truly in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. See also Heb. 11:6
  3. The doctrine of baptisms. Heb. 6:2. Why speak of baptisms in the plural? The Bible says Eph. 4:5: "On Lord, one faith, one baptism."
    - (1) No doubt the writer refers to the baptism of John, of the many Jewish washings as well as Christian baptism. Perhaps Holy Spirit baptism as well.
  4. Of laying on of hands. Heb. 6:2. In the early church hands were imposed:
    - (1) Imparting a spiritual gift. Acts 8:17
    - (2) In healing the sick. Acts 28:8
    - (3) In ordaining men to the work of the ministry. Acts 6:6; Acts 13:3; 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:22
  5. Of the resurrection of the dead. Heb 6:2. This elementary doctrine of the resurrection of the dead denied by the Sadducees. Mat. 22:23  
Acts 17:32; 23:8; 26:8.

DEARBORN VALLEY

Church of Christ

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It is our hope that this booklet will help you understand the Bible passages... The word 'Church' is derived from the Greek word 'ekklesia' which means 'assembly' or 'gathering'.

The Bible teaches that the Church is the body of Christ, which is the church of the living God... The Church is the assembly of those who have been called by God and who have responded to His call.

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 IN GOING ON UNTO PERFECTION; SOME THINGS NECESSARY. Continued:

6. Of eternal judgment. Heb. 6:2

(1) Not all of God's judgments are eternal. Some are but for a moment. 2 Cor. 4:16-18

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

(2) The final, general judgment will never be reversed. Matthew 25:46; But these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Heb. 9:27 also .

OUR DETERMINATION TO GO ON. And this we will do if God permit. Heb. 6:3

1. The thing resolved upon is good: THIS WE WILL DO IF GOD PERMIT. Do what? Leave these first principles of the doctrine of Christ and press on unto perfection
2. Wishing and hoping are of little avail without resolution.
3. With God's help we will go on. Without God's help we can do nothing. John 15:5; I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
4. IF GOD PERMIT: This does not indicate doubt that going on is in harmony with God's will but simply acknowledges the absolute sovereignty of God and that without him we can do nothing.

THE RELAPSE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RECOVERY. Hebrews 6:4-6 Note their experiences:

1. They had been enlightened. In conversion men turn from darkness to light. Here men had turned from light to darkness.
2. They had tasted of the heavenly gift. Forgiveness of sins; peace with God; spiritual strength
3. They were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. Romans 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16.
4. They had tasted the good word of God. All wonderful promises contained in the Word of God.
5. They had tasted of the powers of the world to come. The present power and glory of the Christian life.
6. IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY: After all these glorious experiences, if they shall fall away, it is impossible to renew them to repentance. (Heb.6:6)
  1. "Seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

TEACHING FROM THE GOOD LAND AND BAD. Heb. 6:7,8. The picture of two men:

1. One is attentive, the other unresponding.
2. One man drinks in the grace and truth of God and puts forth corresponding fruit.
3. Another man drinks in God's truth, seems to appreciate it, but when the result is looked for nothing is found but noxious growths.

BETTER THINGS EXPECTED OF CHRISTIANS. Heb. 6:9-12 Consider

1. We are to engage in those things that accompany salvation. Verse 9 What are those things?
  1. Work and labor of love, God is not going to forget.
  2. Ministry to the saints. Verse 10
  3. Be diligent to the full assurance of hope to the end. Verse 11
  4. THAT YE BE NOT SLOTHFUL (Romans 12:11) but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
  5. THE MEANS OF ENTRANCE: Faith, patience, diligence, waiting, and working.

