

Falling Away? *Hebrews 6:1-12*

“A vaccination immunizes by giving a very mild case of the disease. A person who is exposed to the gospel can get just enough of it to immunize him against the real thing. The longer he continues to resist it, whether graciously or violently, the more he becomes immune to it. His spiritual system becomes more and more unresponsive and insensitive. His only hope is to reject what he is holding onto and receive Christ—without delay—lest he become so hard, often without knowing it, that his opportunity is forever gone...

It is dangerously self-deceptive for a person to think that, by staying on the sidelines, by holding off deciding, by thinking himself tolerant of the gospel simply because he does not outwardly oppose it, that he is safe. The longer one stays on the edge that more he leans toward the old life. Staying there too long inevitably results in falling away from the gospel forever. It may not be, and often is not, a conscious decision against Christ. But it is a decision and it is against Christ. When a person goes away from Him in full light, he places Him on the cross again, in his own heart, and puts himself forever out of the Lord's reach. How terribly serious it is to reject Jesus Christ.”
MacArthur

- I. God expects each believer to grow from spiritual infancy to spiritual adulthood in our understanding of how to live his righteousness. Paul stated it best when he wrote, *“When I was child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me”* (1 Cor. 13:11). Putting God's truth into practice in a culture that is constantly changing its mores and ethic, which we are expected to accept and embrace or be labeled racist or intolerant, depends on whether God's ways are more important to us than the world's ways. There is no such thing as fence post sitting when it comes to living our faith. Either we are for him or against him, either we fight the good fight, or we tuck tail and run, either we stand firm in the faith or bow to the ways of the world. We either live by God's truth or we don't, and it's seen by whether we call evil good or good evil.

Heb. 5:12-13

1 Cor. 9:24-27

Isaiah 5:20-21 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness or light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those how are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.*

- II. The only foundation we are to build our lives upon is the one Jesus laid (1 Cor. 3:10-16). We are told to be careful how we build because it will determine in many ways how serious we take our salvation, which we will be judged for. Hebrews 6:1-6 speaks to both the unsaved and saved. To the unsaved God is saying, if you think that by being religious you will be granted entrance into the kingdom of God when you die, then understand that the only way entrance is granted is through true repentance and belief in the gospel. To the saved who have a nominal commitment to Christ he is saying, understand that if you are not careful you will become calloused to the necessity of repentance and will find that though saved, your eternal reward will be nonexistent.

Heb. 6:1-8

1 Jn. 2:19

Eph. 5:8

Eph. 5:13-14

Eph. 5:15-18

Rom. 2:4

Heb. 10:37-38

Luke 11:23 *“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.*

Heb. 10:37-38 *For, “In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.” 38 And, “But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”*

- III. The Lord’s admonishment toward taking the Lordship of Jesus Christ seriously is meant to instill in us an understanding of how seriously God takes our commitment to him and his righteousness. He does not want us feeling as if we will never achieve the level of spiritual maturity we are admonished to attain. Instead, he encourages us to press on in his love by helping those in need, by staying steadfastly committed to him, by remaining hopeful in his promises and by being patient as we wait for our redemption. It’s what helps us build upon the foundation of Christ using gold, silver, and costly stones.

Heb. 6:9-12

Phil. 3:12 *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*