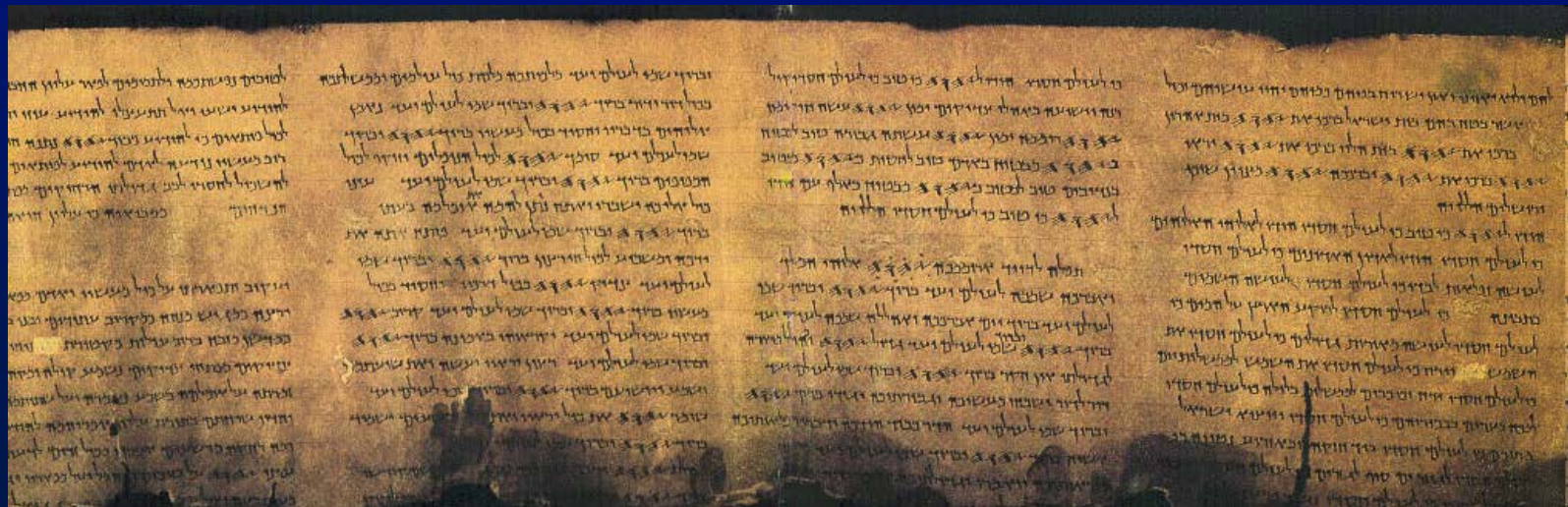


Hebrews 6:1-8

Mature and Don't Fall Away



Background from Last Week

■ The audience addressed

■ Clues

- The warnings in Hebrews focus on the unsaved
- The book of Hebrews provides a major contrast between Christianity and Judaism – the New and Old Covenants
- There is a major problem if chapter 6 is talking about believers losing their salvation
- There are various clues in the words and phrases in this section that make a strong case for it addressing unsaved Jews



Background from Last Week

■ The audience addressed

- My conclusion

- This section is addressed to Jewish unbelievers* rather than immature Christians

** This would include apostates (one who abandons Christ after once seeming to have embraced Him) as well as potential apostates*

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ **Leave behind the elementary (v1a)**

- The incomplete teaching about the promised Messiah

■ **Press toward the mature (v1b)**

- The complete/perfect salvation that comes by fully embracing Jesus as the arrived Messiah

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ **Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)**

- **Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)**
 - **Repentance from dead works**

Hebrews 9:13–14 ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴**how much more will the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve the living God?

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)

- Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)
 - Repentance from dead works
 - Faith toward God

Acts 20:21 ²¹solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12 ¹²“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 ⁵For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ **Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)**

- **Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)**
 - **Repentance from dead works**
 - **Faith toward God**
 - **Instructions about washings**

Titus 3:5 ⁵He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ **Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)**

- **Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)**
 - **Repentance from dead works**
 - **Faith toward God**
 - **Instructions about washings**
 - **Laying on of hands**

Leviticus 1:4 ⁴He shall **lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering**, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf.

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)

- Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)
 - Repentance from dead works
 - Faith toward God
 - Instructions about washings
 - Laying on of hands
 - Resurrection of the dead

1 Corinthians 15:42 ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

Job 19:26 ²⁶“Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

John 11:25 ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)

- Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)
 - Repentance from dead works
 - Faith toward God
 - Instructions about washings
 - Laying on of hands
 - Resurrection of the
 - Eternal judgment

Psalm 58:11 ¹¹And men will say, “Surely there is a **reward for the righteous**; Surely there is a God who judges on earth!”

Ecclesiastes 3:17 ¹⁷I said to myself, “**God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man,**” for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

■ Leave behind the elementary (cont'd)

■ Six incomplete features of the Old Covenant (vv1c-2)

- Repentance from dead works

- Faith toward God

- Instructions about washings

- Laying on of hands

- Resurrection of the

- Eternal judgment

Romans 8:1 ¹Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Revelation 20:11–15 ¹¹Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat upon it...¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Exhortation: Move On to Maturity (6:1-3)

The point of Hebrews 6:1-2 is simply that the unbelieving Jews should let go completely of the immature, elementary shadows and symbols of the Old Covenant and take hold of the mature and perfect reality of the New.

John MacArthur

Give Up the Basics Under the Old Covenant...	...And Embrace What Is Completed Under the New Covenant
Immature, elementary shadows and symbols	Mature and perfect reality
Pictures of the Messiah	The Messiah Himself
Repentance from dead works	Repentance and new life in Christ
Faith toward God	Faith in the Person of Christ, God in human flesh
Ceremonial washings which were many, physical, symbolic, and temporary	Washing of the soul which is one-time, spiritual, real, and permanent
Laying hands upon a temporary sacrifice	Laying one's trust and whole heart upon the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice is permanent
Incomplete revelation of the resurrection of the dead	Complete revelation of the resurrection unto life
Incomplete revelation of eternal judgment	Complete revelation of eternal judgment and rewards

Warning! Don't Fall Away! (vv4-8)

- **The experiences of these potential apostates (vv4-5)**
 - They had sufficient intellectual understanding of the gospel *(but they didn't fully embrace it)*
 - They had sampled and examined the gospel of grace *(but they didn't fully accept and apply it)*

2 Corinthians 9:15 ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His **indescribable gift!**



Warning! Don't Fall Away! (vv4-8)

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 - They had sufficient intellectual understanding of the gospel *(but they didn't fully embrace it)*
 - They had sampled and examined the gospel of grace *(but they didn't fully accept and apply it)*
 - They had observed the ministry of the Holy Spirit *(but they didn't possess the Holy Spirit)*
 - They had tasted the mysteries and utterances of God as part of the New Covenant *(but they didn't fully consume them)*

Warning! Don't Fall Away! (vv4-8)

■ The experiences of these potential apostates (vv4-5)

- They had sufficient intellectual understanding of the gospel *(but they didn't fully embrace it)*

- They had sampled and examined the gospel *(but they didn't fully accept it)*

- They had observed the ministry of the Holy Spirit *(but they didn't possess the Holy Spirit)*

- They had tasted the mysteries of the Kingdom of God as part of the New Covenant *(but they didn't fully consume it)*

Mark 6:20 ²⁰for Herod (Antipas) was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; but **he used to enjoy listening to him.**

Jeremiah 15:16 ¹⁶Your words were found and **I ate them**, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart



Warning! Don't Fall Away! (vv4-8)

- **The experiences of these potential apostates (vv4-5)**
 - They had seen in the apostles a foretaste of the miracles to come in Christ's kingdom
(but they didn't acknowledge the Source or Authority behind them)

Warning! Don't Fall Away! (vv4-8)

- **The decision of an apostate (v6a)**
 - They fall away, rejecting Christ and the gospel
- **The consequence for such apostasy (v6b)**
 - They are doomed without any chance of future salvation

Biblical Doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints

All those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

John 10:27–29 (*Jesus*) “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**”

Eph 1:4 just as **He chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

1 Pet 1:5 **who are protected by the power of God** through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

Rom 8:35,38-39 **Who will separate us** from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Observations & Application

- **People can reach a fully informed point of understanding yet reject Christ**
 - For them, there is no hope for ever obtaining salvation
- **If you are drifting away from Christ**
 - Reverse course now!
 - Get on your knees today – confess, repent, and believe!
- **If your life continues to show the marks of being a true believer**
 - Keeping growing
 - Rejoice in the security and permanence of your salvation