

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS**

#### **'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 8**

#### **Hebrews 5 v11 - 6 v8**

Note - One of the hardest passages, if not the hardest passage, in the whole of the Bible!

This passage deals with 2 matters which are closely interlinked:-

**Spiritual Apostasy - the perilous danger of falling away**

**&**

**Spiritual Maturity - the vital importance of growing up**

#### **1. SPIRITUAL APOSTASY - THE PERILOUS DANGER OF FALLING AWAY**

Spiritual Apostasy (with respect to Christian things) - a wholesale turning away and rejection of the Christian gospel and the Christian faith.

Key Verses - 6 v4 - 6 Key Phrase - "It is impossible..... to be brought back to repentance."

Key Question - Who is the writer talking about here? There are 2 options:-

#### **A. HE IS TALKING ABOUT REAL CHRISTIANS**

If this is the case then this means that, according to these verses, we can be genuinely converted but at the end of the day lose our salvation. What are we to say about this?

Important law in biblical interpretation - We must always interpret the hard by the easy, the obscure by the obvious, and the unclear by the clear. This is what we need to do here. And so what do the clear and unambiguous passages in the Bible have to say about this matter? See (for example) - Jn 10 v27 - 29, Rom 8 v27 - 39, Phil 1 v3 - 6, 1 Pet 1 v3 - 5. These are just a few of the passages which allow for no other interpretation than - 'Once in Him, in Him for ever!' If this is the case (and we believe it is) then we have to say that:-

## **B. HE IS TALKING ABOUT APPARENT CHRISTIANS**

See - v4 - 5. These people were influenced, moved, stirred - and yes, blessed by the gospel. To the outward view they seemed to be the real thing - the genuine article, but it was all outward with no inward, lasting work of grace in the heart.

Key Name - Judas

Key Verse - 1 Jn 2 v19

Key Principle - "You will recognise them by their fruit." See - v7 - 8 & Jn 15 v6

Key Application - See 2 Pet v10 - 11. If you are being moved, stirred, influenced, and blessed by the Spirit of God in the gospel - make your calling and election sure by truly trusting in Jesus now.

Key Question - Is there no hope for those who fall away. Yes – there is? If there is, then who is the writer specifically speaking about when he says that it is impossible for such people "to be brought back to repentance"? Answer - See - v6b. He is talking about people who have not only turned from the gospel, but who are now mocking, ridiculing, and disparaging Him who is the gospel - the Lord Jesus Christ. This is like crucifying Him all over again - and God won't stand for that!

## **2. SPIRITUAL MATURITY - THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF GROWING UP**

Key Point - If you're worried about being apostate, then that's as sure a sign as ever that you're not.

Key Question - How can we make our calling and election sure? Yes, by trusting in Jesus - and then, by going on to maturity.

### **A. THE PROBLEM**

See - 5 v11 - 14. Some of these Christians were living in infancy.

### **B. THE ANSWER**

See - 6v1 - 3. Going on to maturity.

Key Question - Are you a 'Cow & Gate' Christian or a meat and potatoes Christian?