

- 2) For a person to turn away from Christ after having known and seen so much about the truth of the Gospel reveals that their hearts were hardened. They were not spiritually ignorant. This is not just falling into sin. It is choosing to turn away from Christ.
- 3) If given the chance, they would crucify the Son of God again and put Him to shame. If an enlightened person would so turn against Christ, there is no repentance for Him. He has chosen his doom.

*The third reason you ought to go on to completion spiritually is...*

### 3. Reception of Christ is Fruitful, v.7-8

The apostle closes this section with a nature illustration of earth that drinks in the rain. The rain falls on both good and bad ground.

#### a. The good ground produces beneficial herbs

- 1) The rain received by the good ground pictures the message of the Gospel and work of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The good ground drank the rain and produced beneficial herbs. This pictures a person truly repenting and receiving Christ as Saviour and then producing fruitful evidence in his life.
- 3) He receives the blessing of God.

#### b. The bad ground produces thorns and briers

- 1) The rain received by the bad ground also pictures the message of the Gospel and work of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) The bad ground may have been too hard to drink the rain and thus it produced only thorns and briers that are worthless. This pictures a person who did not benefit from the Gospel and work of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) This person, like the thorns and briers, is cursed and in the end will burn in hell.

**Conclusion:** God has rained on you the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit. You know the Gospel foundation. You are familiar with the work of the Holy Spirit. Have you gone on to completion spiritually? Are you 100% positive you have trusted Christ to save you from judgment? If you are not positive, make sure today. Tomorrow may be too late!

**Song:** Only Trust Him - 252

# Let Us Go On!

*9 June 2019 AM – Hebrews 6:1-8 – Heb19 – Scott Childs*

**Introduction:** Have you ever started a project and not yet completed it? No doubt, we all have. Those uncompleted projects are useless.

As the apostle begins Hebrews 6, he urges his readers to go on unto perfection or spiritual completion. Knowing about salvation and even agreeing that you need it is of no value until you personally receive it by faith to complete it.

**Transition:** God wants all who hear the Gospel to go on to completion spiritually. We find here three reasons that you ought to make sure you have gone on to completion spiritually.

*The first reason you ought to go on to completion spiritually is...*

### 1. Completion through Christ is potential, v.1-3

God wants us to go on to *perfection*. The idea of this is not sinlessness but rather *completion*.

#### a. Completion is potential if we leave the basics

- 1) When building a house, if you stop with the foundation, you will never have a complete house.
- 2) Paul's Jewish readers who claimed to be Christians had a six-layer spiritual foundation that prepared them for salvation, but it was only a foundation.
  - a) They had *repentance from dead works*. They had changed their minds about the many cold, lifeless, religious activities of their past.
  - b) They had *faith toward God*. The faith of some was not genuine. (Titus 1:16) "*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*"
  - c) They knew the *doctrine of baptisms*. This word refers to ceremonial washings under the Law. They knew that Christ offers to wash us clean. (Titus 3:5) "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost,*"
  - d) They experienced *laying on of hands*. This too refers

to the act of the OT priest when he placed his hands on the head of a goat to place man's sin on it (Le 16:21). They had heard it preached that God placed all our sins on Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21) "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*"

- e) They knew of the *resurrection of the dead*. They heard Christ's teaching. (John 5:28-29) "*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*"
- f) They had learned of *eternal judgment*.

### **b. Completion is potential if we go on**

- 1) Knowing about salvation is only the foundation. Many religious people falsely think they are Christians because they know about God's salvation.
- 2) When the apostle stated, "*let us go on unto perfection*", he finished his statement in verse 3, "*and this we will do if God permit.*" Why would God **not always** permit one's spiritual perfection or completion?
- 3) Man has a free will to receive or reject God's salvation. God cannot give salvation to those who will not humbly repent and receive it. "**God never in the case of salvation violates man's free will.**" Wuest
- 4) All who truly receive Christ have God's completed salvation. Make sure you have truly placed our faith in Jesus Christ alone.

*The second reason you ought to go on to completion spiritually is...*

## **2. Rejection of Christ is fatal, v.4-6**

We know these verses do not teach that a true believer can lose his salvation. That would contradict many clear Scriptures like (John 5:24) "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*"

This section may be speaking of a hypothetical situation that could never happen to a true Christian. However, since Paul was writing this book to Jews, some of whom professed faith in Christ yet did not truly possess salvation and were thinking of returning to Judaism, it appears to be a warning to them. To turn away from the Gospel and back to Judaism would be fatal. Today, it is a warning to all who are familiar with the Gospel and yet have never truly experienced regeneration through faith in Christ.

### **a. Familiarization is not sufficient**

- 1) First century Jews who had identified with the Christians and professed salvation had no excuse for not believing sincerely.
  - a) They were *once enlightened*. They knew the Gospel that Christ died for their sins and rose again.
  - b) They had *tasted of the heavenly gift*. Like the 12 men who spied out the Promised Land and ate of the fruit, they had no excuse. They are like the seeds that fell on stony and weedy ground in Jesus' parable. They liked what they saw and heard and made a profession but not sincerely.
  - c) They were *made partakers of the Holy Ghost*. Commentator Ironside points out that, "**To be a 'partaker of Holy Spirit' is not at all the same thing as to be born of the Spirit, sealed by the Spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, anointed by the Spirit, baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, or filled with the Holy Spirit.**" They partook of the Spirit's conviction.
  - d) They have *tasted of the good word of God and the powers of the world to come*. They were like the multitudes that followed Jesus. They ate of the bread and fish he multiplied and watched His miracles, yet they turned away and rejected Him (John 6).
- 2) Today, many religious people, especially those in churches that preach the Gospel, are familiar with the truth.

### **b. Turning from the truth offers no other hope**

- 1) If one of those unsaved Jewish professing Christians turned from the truth back to Judaism, they had no hope.