

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 6:4-6:12

“Assurance of Hope” – March 18, 2018



Introduction

Warnings *and* encouragements. Growing up, our parents gave us both because both warning and encouragement are necessary to growing into maturity. The same is true in the Christian life. Since the Christian life is not just about how we start (as important as that is), but whether or not we finish, we need the strength to endure to the end. Such perseverance is a gift of God's grace and something that marks every believer ([Hebrews 3:6](#) and [3:14](#)). The warning in Hebrews 6 wakes up the apathetic, sleepy Christian the same way rumble strips on the highway wakeup the driver who's at risk of veering off the road. But while the warning ensures we don't look in the wrong place for assurance, the encouragement in Hebrews 6 makes sure we find assurance in the *right* thing. That's the aim of Hebrews 6 – that the Christian has confidence in where he/she stands before God.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. (Warning) Wake up to what's at stake (6:4-8)
- II. (Encouragement) Find assurance in the right thing (6:9-12)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 6:4-8](#)

The writer of Hebrews had seen the church he cared about become dull of hearing ([5:11](#)). Dullness of hearing leads to drifting ([2:1](#)), and unchecked drifting leads to falling away ([6:6](#)). *That's why* growing, striving to know and love God, and going on to maturity is so important! There's a lot at stake. While it is true that the Bible is clear that a *Christian* cannot lose their salvation (see [John 10:28-29](#) or [Philippians 1:6](#)), the warning here is not *hypothetical* or a warning about just losing *rewards*. The warning pictures someone who has all the spiritual experiences listed in vv4-5, but then falls away and fails to make it to the end.

The writer, like us, is not able to peer into the heart of the listener. Only God can see into our heart and know who is and isn't a genuine Christian. But though we cannot see into the heart, we are not completely in the dark as to where someone is spiritually. As the illustration in vv7-8 reminds us, we are to look at the fruit of an individual's life, and seeing such fruit takes time. Take a moment to do some inventory in your own life. Do you see the fruit of God's Spirit in your life? It may be helpful to ask someone who knows you well if

they see fruit in your life. As the writer said in [Hebrews 3:13](#), we are to *exhort* one another. To exhort means to encourage *and* to warn. Just as the reader puts the spiritual rumble strips out to wake up the slumbering Christian, we are to love one another by doing the same when we see a brother or sister in Christ veering off God's path. Who can you encourage today? Who might you need to lovingly warn?

Additional reading: Galatians 5:22-23, Proverbs 27:5

2) Read [Hebrews 6:9-12](#)

Hebrews does not want us to waver or doubt our salvation. Where are we to find assurance then? Though he warns them about the dangers of their drifting, Hebrews reminds them of the evidences of grace he has seen in them: the work and love (v9) that serve as spiritual fruit. Such fruit makes the author confident they are truly Christians, but he wants them to be earnest about growing so they can know the assurance of hope. What is the relationship between our good works and our assurance of salvation? How can serving and loving other brothers and sisters in the church (forgiving, serving practical needs, putting their interests before my own, etc.) help me to grow in assurance that I am a child of God? How can neglecting such love and being selfish cause my assurance to dwindle? How does having good examples to imitate help us to grow as Christians? Who are your examples that you're seeking imitate right now?

Additional Reading: 1 John 4:19-21, 1 Peter 1:7

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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