

## Beware of Apostasy! (Part 1)

**Text:** Hebrews 6:4-8

**Main Idea:** The apostate who refuses to believe in Christ after experiencing all the benefits of the Church is eternally condemned without any hope of being restored to repentance.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the writer of Hebrews talking about in these verses?

- An incorrect view: Genuine believers who \_\_\_\_\_ their salvation!

Biblical evidence of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer: Phil 1:6, Rom 8:30, 39, Jude 24, Eph 4:30, Mt 24:24, John 10:27-30.

- The correct view: Professing superficial \_\_\_\_\_ in the covenant community of believers who decidedly reject Jesus Christ falling away after having been closely related to Him (Apostates).

2. What \_\_\_\_\_ did these people have being a part of the community?

- They had once been \_\_\_\_\_.
- They had *tasted* of the heavenly gift: \_\_\_\_\_!
- They had *shared* in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- They had *tasted* the goodness of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- They had *tasted* the \_\_\_\_\_ of the age to come.

3. What is the result of apostasy? \_\_\_\_\_ to be renewed to repentance. (v. 6)

4. What are biblical \_\_\_\_\_ of apostates?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 3 & 4)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & \_\_\_\_\_ seed in the parable of the sower. (Mk 4:3-20)
- \_\_\_\_\_ the sorcerer. (Acts 8:9-24)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 4:10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:3-6)

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### Application Questions:

1. In order to understand whom it is that the writer of Hebrews is specifically talking about in 6:4-6, it is important to clearly observe specific use of pronouns. Look at the previous pronouns that the writer has been using throughout the letter: 3:6, 4:3, 11, 6:1, 3. Notice the stark change in pronouns in verses 4-6. Now notice a change again in verse 9. Also note the specific titles that the writer has used previously of those who he is addressing: 3:1, 3:12. Using this information is vital in understanding clearly whom the writer is talking about in v. 4-6. Define clearly whom the writer is speaking about.
2. Think about the deep ramifications if indeed this passage teaches that a truly saved believer can lose salvation. What would have to be revoked? Think through the steps of salvation that would have to be overturned for someone to lose their salvation: Election, Calling, Regeneration, Justification, Adoption, Forgiveness, Glorification, which are all works of God's initiating grace.
3. When we interpret difficult texts we must use what the reformers called the "analogia fidei" or analogy of faith. This principle states that **Scripture must interpret Scripture**. In other words, since the Holy Spirit has inspired all of Scripture, then there must not be any contradiction lest the Holy Spirit Himself be guilty of lying. Review the following passages to see what they teach about the security of the believer: Phil 1:6, Rom 8:30, 39, Jude 24, Eph 4:30 Matt 24:24, Jn 10:27-30. If indeed these **clear** passages teach security for every believer, how must we interpret Hebrews 6:4-6 which seems a little **unclear**?
4. There are 5 advantages or benefits that the author says this particular group of people have experienced. What words in the text give us an indication that these people have not truly experienced genuine salvation? Think about other passages in the NT, which use specific words to speak of salvation. What "salvation words" are clearly missing from this particular passage?
5. Can you give some biblical examples of apostasy? Is it possible to participate in a church community, make a profession and yet not be genuinely saved? Check your own heart! Are you superficially connected to Christ? Or have you fully "swallowed" and embraced the Word of God and been "born again?"

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