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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Hebrews 6:1-8
Lesson #14
Converts that Revert
04/14/2024**

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

**6:1-8
Converts that Revert
(Is there an unforgivable sin?)**

2

Is there an unforgivable sin?

Mark 3 (Matt. 12:30-32, Lk. 12:10)

“28 Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but **whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness**, but is guilty of an eternal sin.”

1 John 5:16

“If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.**”

3

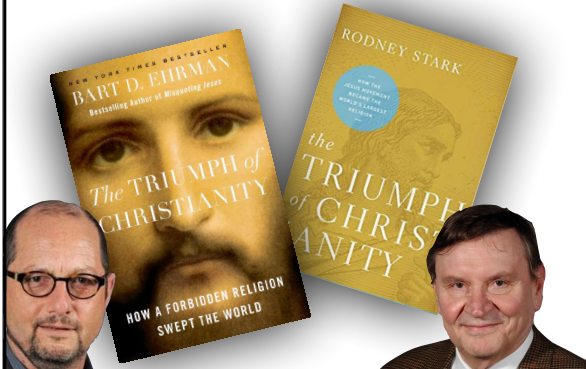
Hebrews 6

“4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, **it is impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.”

Many see this as one of the most difficult passages in the Bible.

4

Most ancient empires were formed from military conquest but not Christianity.



5

Most ancient empires were formed from military conquest but not Christianity.

How a forbidden religion swept the world.

- **existential appeal**
- **exclusive claims**
- **evangelistic spread**

6

The Christian Gospel spread in a hostile environment.

1 Corinthians 1

“18 For the **word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.*”

7

1 Corinthians 1

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness**, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

- Its message of **Word of the Cross** insulted the Jews.
- Its message of **Way of the Cross** insulted the Gentiles.

8

The Christian Gospel spread in a hostile environment.

Can a Convert to the faith later Revert (fall away) from that faith?



If a person falls away, can they EVER come back?



9

Context

1. Unrealistic expectations tempted some Jewish converts to **revert to the Old Covenant Law**.
2. Romans, Galatians, and **Hebrews** address this issue.

Hebrews 6

“1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a **foundation of repentance from dead works** and of **faith toward God**, 2 of instruction about washings (**baptism**), and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we shall do, if God permits.

3. **The challenge** is to build on the foundation of faith, not revert to the O. C. Law based on “dead works”.

10

REPENT

exchanging hope in self and the world for the Cross of Christ



- ★ The sin of unbelief
- ★ Conversion
- ★ Once for all

repent

letting go of worldly attachments, attitudes, & actions for Kingdom living



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Communion
- ★ Repeated

11

There was a great and clear distinction between Old & **New Covenants**.

John 1:17

“For the **Law** was given through **Moses**; **grace and truth** were realized through **Jesus Christ**.”



Paul's Gospel

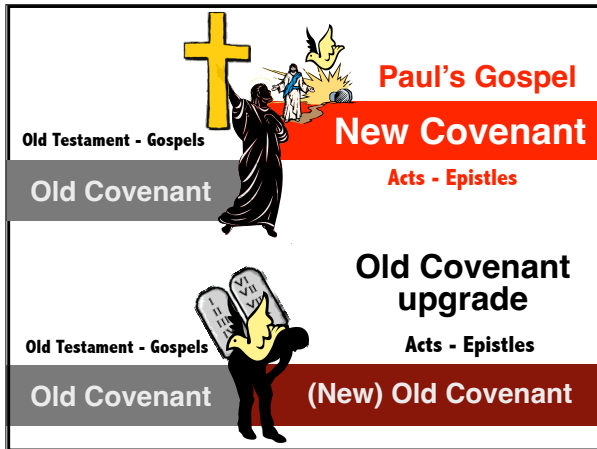
New Covenant

Old Testament - Gospels

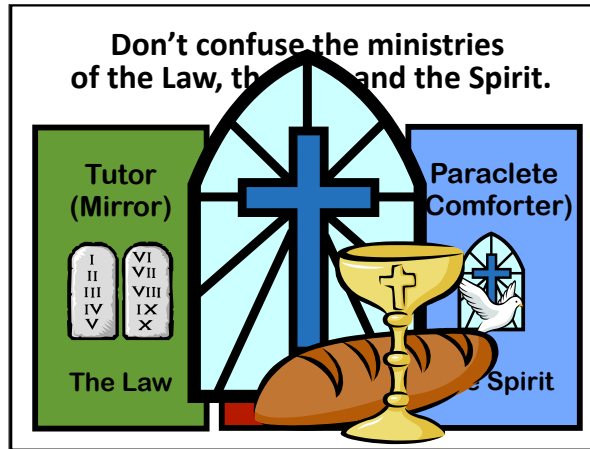
Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

12



13



14

Hebrews 6

“¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God; ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we shall do, if God permits. ⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.”

15

Reverting to O.C. practices of sacrifice for sin is to reject the Word of the Cross.

Hebrews 10

“²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ **How much severer** punishment do you think he will deserve who has **trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**”

16

Hebrews 9

“¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, **He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** ¹³ For 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?”

17

Peter addresses this issue in 2 Peter.

2 Peter 2:1

“But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.”

18

Paul addresses this issue in Galatians.

Galatians 3

“1 You foolish Galatians, **who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?** . . . 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? . . . 6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.”

19

Hebrews 6

“7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and **brings forth vegetation useful** to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but **if it yields thorns and thistles**, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.”

It is **impossible** to repent (change a mind) and find hope from “dead works” through an inactive (terminated) covenant.

The challenge is not to move back or start over but rather to **move ahead or grow stronger.**

20

We need to hear this teaching in our day as we are tempted to:

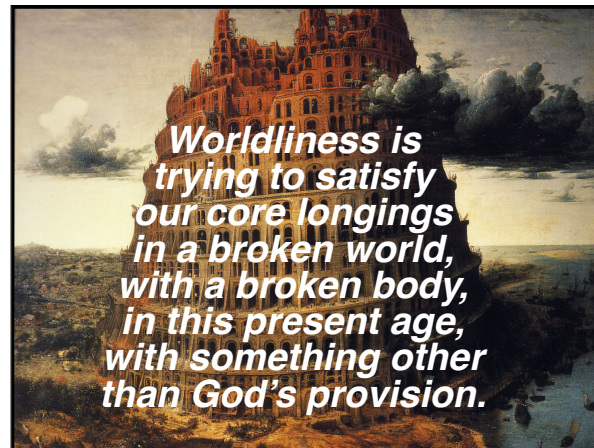
- **Marginalize the Word of the Cross**, by reducing Christianity to social ethics, charismatic experience, or material comfort.
- **Expect something other than** the harsh circumstances of Jesus and his Apostles.
- **Be impatient and fail to abide** in faith through hard times with peace, joy, and courage.
- **Apply our faith to the wrong things** as a means to worldly hopes.
- **Pray for changed circumstances** rather than growth to spiritual maturity.

21

A cut flower theology.



22



23

What is an antichrist spirit?



The longings of aliens in a broken world
Matthew 4:1-11



NOTE:

Satan tempted Christ to use God's power to satisfy core longings in life

by and through this world.

1. Satan appeals to **legitimate longings.**
2. Satan appeals to **common sense.**
3. Satan appeals to **Scripture.**

24

Jeremiah 2:13
 “For My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

Worldliness is seeking hope in all the wrong places.

25

“I am a Christian who believes that Jesus came to show us how to live lives that are in touch with the spirit within.”

The New Earth Church

26

Why was Jesus & Paul harder on religious people who did not believe than on immoral sinners who did not behave?

The Word of the Cross made provision for misbehavior but not for disbelief.

27

Is there an unforgivable sin?

YES!

It is the rejection of the Word and Way of the Cross.

28

Hebrews

Next week 6:9-20

Salvation Growth & Assurance

29