

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Hebrews - Lesson 6

Prayerfully read through Hebrews, chapter 6.

In verse one, from the NIV Bible, the verse reads:

“THEREFORE, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and GO ON to maturity...”

- 1) Look back to **verses 11 through 14** of **chapter 5** and summarize in your own words what the **“THEREFORE”** of **Hebrews 6:1** is **THERE FOR**.

- 2) Going back to Hebrews, chapter six, read the rest of verse 1 along with verse 2. List what the writer calls the **principles of doctrine**, or **“elementary teachings”** of Christ. There are six of them. Record and number them.

- 3) Looking at these six principles, give a brief description of what your understanding is of each.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

- 4) Why would these principles be considered as **elementary**? What does **elementary** mean to you? Look the word up in a dictionary and then share your thoughts.

Carefully read **Hebrews 6:4-6**. We see here some of the most *difficult verses* in the letter of Hebrews --- and perhaps in all the New Testament Epistles. It is important to note that there are varied opinions from many well-respected theologians on what this passage means. Some believe it is speaking of those who have “partaken” (or “tasted”) of Christ, but not “eaten” (or fully “consumed” Him) ---i.e. those who have enjoyed the fellowship of believers and listened to the Gospel but never really come into salvation. Others believe it is speaking of born-again Christians who turn “apostate” and completely turn their back on Christ and return to their old life-style, concluding that these could never again be restored back to faith. And some believe that the writer is using a sarcastic tone to get a point across, as if saying: *“if it were possible (which, of course it is not) for a Christian to turn away and crucify the Lord afresh --- then this impossible act would result in the impossibility of ever being restored”*.

When we come to difficult passages and are seeking interpretation the **most important rule** for us to remember is to let **Scripture interpret Scripture**. The **neglect** of this rule leads to many “**false doctrines**” we hear preached today.

- 5) Look up the following Scriptures: **John 5:24; John 10:26-30; Romans 8:28-30; Hebrews 6:17-19** and **1 Samuel 16:7**. You may also look up any **additional Scriptures** that come to mind. Record them below.

John 5:24:

John 10:26-30:

Romans 8:28-30:

Hebrews 6:17-19:

1 Samuel 16:7:

- 6) After reading and recording the above verses and returning to the subject of **Hebrews 6:4-6**, share your personal thoughts on what you believe this passage to mean.

Remember, these Hebrew Christians were being tempted to **turn away** from their faith in Christ and go back to Judaism, and this is the subject the writer is addressing. One thing is **certain** --- there is only **one salvation**. There are no **substitutes** --- no **“other ways.”** If we reject **this salvation** we will **NOT be saved**. Turning **from Christ** to **go back to** their Judaism and all their religious rituals cannot save them. Neither is there salvation in **any other** religious system.

- 7) As we read on in **Hebrews 6:7-8**, we are given a way in which to know if God will **bles**s, or God will **reject**.

a. Record below the **condition** for receiving **God’s blessing** in **verse 7**.

b. Record the **condition** of **God’s rejection** in **verse 8**.

- 8) Record what Jesus says about this in **Matthew 12:33**?

Note: The Lord does not say that the fruit (or works) save them, but that a tree is **known** by what kind of fruit (or lack of) it produces.

- 9) Read **Matthew 3:8** and **Luke 3:8**. What kind of fruit are we told here to produce?

10) From **Ephesians 4:31-32** describe the fruit we should see in our lives following **true repentance**.

11) Looking at **John 15:4** explain how this fruit is produced.

a. What does this mean to you in **practical terms**?

12) Summarize what the Lord says to us regarding fruit in **John 15:8-16**?

13) We all have times of “barrenness” --- times when we feel like a dry and withered branch. In **John 15:1** we are told that the Father is the Husbandman, or Vinedresser of our vineyard. Read **Luke 13:6-9**. Explain what the Vinedresser does to the barren tree in order to cause it to produce fruit.

b. Are you experiencing the “caretaking” of the Father’s hand in your life? If so, can you share any of your experience and what is being produced in the way of fruit in your life?

14) In **Hebrews 6:9**, the writer encourages them, telling them he thinks more highly of them than to be of those whose only fruit is **thorns and briers**. He is persuaded that they will produce the kind of fruit that **accompanies salvation**. From **Galatians 5:22-23** record the **kind** of fruit produced from our salvation.

Reading through **Hebrews 6:10-12**, we see an acknowledgment of this fruit in the lives of these believers. The writer points to their work, their love and their ministry to the saints, and he commends them for it. He does not allow them to “rest” on these laurels, however, and he *pushes them forward to full maturity*.

Note: We may not all produce the same **AMOUNT** of fruit, (See the parable in **Matthew 13:23**. Some produced a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty), but we all produce the same **KIND** of fruit. It is the **proof** that we have come into salvation and belong to Christ.

15) Of what does he warn them of in **Hebrews 6:12**?

a. Does this relate to any particular area in your life right now?

16) Do you see a **remedy** for this in **Hebrews 6:11** and in the **second half** of **verse 12**?

17) Look up **Proverbs 24:30-34** and share how the Lord speaks to you.

In **Hebrews 6:11** we were exhorted in the **full assurance** of our hope. As we read **Hebrews 6:13-20**, we are given strong arguments why we can be so **fully assured**.

18) In **verse 15** we are told that Abraham did, indeed, obtain the promise given to him. What does verse 15 tell us he did **before** he obtained the promise?

19) From **verses 13, 14 and 17**, record what Abraham based his **reason** to **patiently endure** upon.

Verse 13a:

Verse 14:

Verse 17:

20) Upon what **two immutable** things does verse 18 tell us we are to have **strong consolation**?

21) What is the **hope set before us**? Before you write down a quick answer, look carefully at **Hebrews 6:18** again. The picture being painted for us is based upon the **cities of refuge** described in **Numbers 35:9-15** and **Joshua 20**. The “**avenger**” could not touch the one who had fled there for safety. Jesus is our **eternal city of refuge!** What “**avengers**” in your life are at your heels, threatening to lay hold on you, and what is the **hope set before you** upon which you can be **fully assured**? (See also **Proverbs 18:10**; **1 Thess. 5:9**; **Col. 1:27** and **1 John 3:1-3** to help with your answer).

22) **Hebrews 6:19** tells us this hope not only gives us **full assurance**, but it also **anchors** us. What is the **primary function** of an anchor to a ship?

23) How does this further console and encourage us regarding the earlier subjects of **Hebrew 6:4-8**?

One last word about **this hope**. **Verse 19** goes on to tell us that this hope not only **anchors us**, but it gives us **entry way** into that ***within the veil*** -----***the Holy of Holies***; the **presence of God**. We have **access** now through our **Heavenly Priest**, but we have not yet **fully entered in**, nor can we in this flesh. But our **Forerunner** has ----- and He has not only gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us, but He has gone before the Father on our behalf as the Priest who represents us and intercedes for us.

24) Considering all this, how ought we to respond to God's promises? (*How did Abraham respond?*)

25) In what way has chapter 6 spoken to you personally?