

Once a Saint

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
<div>RECAP:</div>	<p>Last week we began our mini series in Heb. 6:3-8.</p> <p>— We learned that God is in control of all things even when it doesn't feel like it, He is in control.</p> <p>— — We also looked at the fact that if we are pressing on towards growth in our relationship with God then we will not have to worry about falling away.</p> <p>— — — We also looked at a list of things that we can do in order to draw close to God: be enlightened by God, embrace and make part of your life: the heavenly gifts, the Holy Spirit, the word of God, and the powers of the age to come.</p> <p>— — — — We also went through the list of terms that we needed to understand and be on the same page with: being enlightened means being exposed to the gospel; heavenly gifts means the Holy Spirit/spiritual realities/ righteousness/grace/Jesus Christ; partaken in the Holy Spirit means that the in fellowship we see the work of the Holy Spirit working in true believers; the word of God means God word the gift of how He reveals Himself with us, and the power of the age to come is the things we experience that are bigger than this world like redemption, righteousness, God's grace.</p>
<div>INTRODUCTION:</div>	<p>This week we will deal with a topic that had believers on both sides of this doctrinal debate.</p> <p>— We will look at the doctrine of perseverance of the Saints and how that doctrine will effect one's view of this passage.</p> <p>— — We will look at what these terms above mean for the people being talked about in the passage.</p> <p>— — — We will see what the effect on the church is when we are not active in our pursuit of maturity.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 6:3-8: 3 And this we will 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. 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on 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.</p>	<p>There are biblical beliefs that this passage is used to argue about.</p> <p>— This is not a doctrine that should divide us from other believers but it is one that I have a view on and as we are a Southern Baptist Church we have a view on.</p> <p>— — This does not mean that if you have a different view from us, we don't like you, what this means is this is what we believe about God based on our understanding of the scriptures.</p> <p>— — — So what is this doctrine that I am going to talk about?</p> <p>— — — — It is the perseverance of the Saints.</p> <p>— — — — — This is what is often debated in this passage.</p> <p>— — — — — — So, in typical North Morro Church fashion we are going to go at this head on.</p>
	<p>First of all what is perseverance of the Saints?</p> <p>— Well, this is the belief that we have eternal security; that we can not lose our salvation.</p> <p>— — But we have passages like the one we are dealing with now and others that have caused people to question this perseverance or security.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Mat. 24:13: "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved."</u></p> <p>— — — — So, the basic ideas of perseverance of the Saints is that humanity is broken, sinful, and without hope; but God, demonstrated His love for us so that we might be changed; we might me saved.</p> <p>— — — — — So God stepped in and proved opportunity to change.</p> <p>— — — — — — The idea is that when you choose to have God change you, that there is no going back.</p> <p>— — — — — — — That does not mean that we will not back slide (slide back into our old ways of life for a time), but that we will not leave the faith totally; eventually we can't leave the faith if we have truly given our lives to Christ.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>This thought comes from several biblical texts.</p> <p>—READ: John 5:24: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.</p> <p>—READ: Romans 8:38-39: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>—READ: 1 Corinthians 1:4-8: I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>—READ: Philippians 1:6: For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.</p> <p>—READ: 1 John 2:19: They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.</p> <p>—READ: John 10:27: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Albert Mohler wrote this, “When interpreting difficult texts, it is imperative that we look at other, clearer texts. Scripture is unified and does not contradict itself.”</p> <p>—What we see from these clear texts and several other clear texts is that, once our lives our God’s, then we remain God’s.</p> <p>— — True believing Christians though they may have a time of back sliding but they will always come back to Christ.</p> <p>— — — Andrew Murray wrote this, “My assurance of salvation is not something I can carry with me as a railway ticket or a bank note, to be used, as occasion calls. No, God’s seal to my soul is the Holy Spirit; it is in a life in the Spirit that my safety lies; it is when I am led by the Spirit that the Spirit bears witness with my spirit, and that I can cry Abba, Father as Romans 8:14-16 (says)....My assurance of salvation is alone to be found in the living fellowship with the living Jesus in love and obedience.”</p> <p>— — — — Our salvation is a merging of our spirit with God’s Spirit which nothing can separate.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: 1 Corinthians 6:17: But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, to say that one who is truly a believer in Christ; one who is truly saved by grace through faith, not because of something we did but it is a gift of God; can lose that salvation is not the correct interpretation of scripture.</p> <p>— The God of the universe who spoke all things into existence is powerful enough to keep those that are His.</p> <p>— — He does not think of us as mere possessions (like socks).</p> <p>— — — He sees us, true believers, as His children and He is not going to let His children go.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: 1 John 3:1:</u> See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: John 1:12:</u> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Romans 8:16-17:</u> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.</p>
	<p>So, how are we to understand this passage then?</p> <p>— If we accept this perseverance of the Saints; how can we understand this passage?</p> <p>— — It says things like: “who have been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, have shared in the Holy Spirit, have tasted the goodness of the word of God, and the power of the age to come,” yet they have fallen away.</p> <p>— — — Isn’t that evidence that believers can lose their salvation?</p> <p>— — — — Well, let’s remember what enlightened means: enlightened means being exposed to the gospel.</p> <p>— — — — — Just because someone is exposed to the gospel, doesn’t mean that they have given their life to Christ.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Think of People like Judas, who walked with Jesus, saw all the things that Jesus had done, literally experience the gospel, and then sold Jesus out.</p> <p>— READ: Matthew 26:14-16: Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. 16 From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.</p> <p>— — What about the Pharisees? They watched the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) unfold right before their eyes and they were the ones that headed up Jesus’ death.</p> <p>— — — READ: Matthew 12:14: But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>What about those who have tasted?</p> <p>— Those who have tasted “the heavenly gifts,” and those that have tasted the word of God and the power of the age to come.”</p> <p>— — Well, there is a big difference in testing and consuming or eating. (Aunt Bev tasting not eating)</p> <p>— — — Jesus does not tell us to taste the word of God but to eat it and live by it.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: John 6:48-51</u>: “I am the bread of life. 49 “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 “This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: John 6:35</u>: Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.</p> <p>— — This is also an Old Testament idea as well: <u>READ: Jeremiah 15:16</u>: Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.</p> <p>— — — — When we taste something it does effect us (maybe momentarily) but when we eat it/when we consume it, it effects us.</p>
	<p>Okay so lastly, they have, “shared in the Holy Spirit.”</p> <p>— As we looked at our definition of terms that means: that in fellowship we see the work of the Holy Spirit working in true believers.</p> <p>— — A non-believer can come into a church and “share in the Holy Spirit,” experience the Holy Spirit at work in the believers around them.</p> <p>— — — They can see and be a part of the community that is benefiting from the true believers using their spiritual gifts.</p> <p>— — — — This does not mean that they have the Holy Spirit but have experienced the Spirit and shared in the working of the Spirit by being there.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, who is this passage really talking about?</p> <p>— Mohler wrote this, “It is a caution for individuals who have tasted the things of Christ but have not become genuine Christians.”</p> <p>— — This is happening in the church in America more and more.</p> <p>— — — We are not training people in righteousness, we are not challenging believers to grow, and so those who are seeking but are not saved seem to be saved.</p> <p>— — — — This is a call for the church to quit being lazy in their obedience to God, in their sanctification (becoming Holy), and in their spiritual maturity.</p>
	<p>So, what do we learn from this passage? How do we apply it to our lives? What is our practical application?</p> <p>— If you have given your life to Christ then you should be pressing on in obedience, sanctification, and in your spiritual maturity.</p> <p>— — God’s children are always God’s children and once He grips your heart (this is much different from an intellectually understanding of God) you are His for all eternity.</p> <p>— — — If you have been enlightened, tasted, and shared in the things of God and have not handed your life over to Christ, you need to.</p> <p>— — — — Let go of your life so that God can save you and you can truly live.</p>
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