

What Kind of Field Are You?

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>Okay, so last week we talked about the perseverance of the saints, which means that if a person is truly saved, has truly handed their life over to God, a person whose spirit is now intertwined with God’s Spirt; they can not lose their faith.</p> <p>— We then looked at the terms that we defined 3 weeks ago.</p> <p>— — We saw that the idea of being enlightened means being exposed to the gospel not necessarily acceptance of the gospel.</p> <p>— — We saw that tasting and eating are very different things. When we eat something it becomes part of us where as when we taste it in does effect us inside.</p> <p>— — We saw sharing in the Holy Spirit really pointed to the Spirit working in those in the church and those there experience the power of the Spirit in people. This does not mean that these people have the Holy Spirit inside them.</p> <p>— — — So, we saw that this passage is really talking about those who might have been in the church but never made the commitment to God. They may have played the part and spent time in the church but they had not given their lives to Christ.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>Today we are going to wrap up our mini-series in Heb. 6:3-8.</p> <p>— We will see what is meant by falling away, and who are the people who do it.</p> <p>— — We will see what causes these that fall way to not be able to repent.</p> <p>— — — We will also investigate what is being said about the field in the last verses.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 6:3–8 (NASB95): 3 And this we will do, if God permits.</p> <p>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,</p> <p>5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.</p>	<p>So, we have finally gotten to the point in this scripture where we are going to focus on verse 6 and the following.</p> <p>— So, we need understand what is meant by falling away.</p> <p>— — William Hendriksen wrote, “The author speaks about falling away, not about falling into sin. For example, Judas fell away from Jesus and never returned to him; Peter fell into sin but soon afterward saw the resurrected Jesus. The two concepts (apostasy and backsliding) may never confused.”</p> <p>— — — So, there is backsliding; sliding back into our old self and our old way.</p> <p>— — — There is apostasy; falling away from God, the church, and living for sin or self once again.</p> <p>— — — — The greek definition of falling away is: to abandon a former relationship or association, or to dissociate, to turn away.</p> <p>— — — — — Author Pink wrote, “It is a complete falling away, a total abandonment of Christianity which is here in view. It is a willful turning of the back on God’s revealed truth, an utter repudiation (rejection) of the Gospel. It is making “shipwreck of the faith” (1 Tim. 1:9).”</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: 1 Timothy 1:18–19 (NASB95):</u></p> <p>18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>One of the dangers that faced this early church were people coming and seeing what was going on.</p> <p>— It was a totally different way of doing religion and the people inside the church cared for one another in such amazing ways that those outside the church wanted to be apart of it.</p> <p>— — Problem was it required them to live different and to love God above all things and love other as well.</p> <p>— — — Well, it became easy for them to be in the church and experience the excitement but when they were called to give up their life, they did not want to do that.</p> <p>— — — — They were called to abandoned the things seen for the things unseen and they did not want to do that.</p> <p>— — — — — Albert Mohler wrote, “We have all known people who made public professions of faith in Christ, got involved in a church, showed signs of Christian growth and maturity, and yet ultimately fell away. They are not ignorant. They know who Christ is and what he offers, and they still reject him.”</p>
	<p>We know from the passage that this is a final “falling away,” and we know that because the passage tells us that it “is impossible to renew them again to repentance.”</p> <p>— This does not mean that if a non-believer walks away from the gospel that they can’t later give their lives to Christ.</p> <p>— — Jesus’ own brothers did not believe in Him for a time: READ: John 7:5 (NASB95): 5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.</p> <p>— — — But eventually they believe and accepted Him as savior.</p> <p>— — — — Those being talked about here in this passage are those who do not have a chance at repentance again.</p> <p>— — — — — This is a final choice, a final condition for them to enter into. Yes, God desires that all humanity be saved but all of humanity does not desire to be saved.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The question is why don't they come to Christ? Why can't they be "retired to repentance" again?</p> <p>—Well, the answer is in the last half of verse 6, when it says, "they are crucifying once again the Son of God."</p> <p>— — This helps us to see the heart of these that the passage is talking about.</p> <p>— — — The key to understanding their hearts is who does the passage tell us they identify with?</p> <p>— — — — They identify with those who crucified Christ the first time.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Luke 23:20–23 (NASB95): 20</u> Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, 21 but they kept on calling out, saying, "Crucify, crucify Him!" 22 And he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him." 23 But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail.</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Matthew 27:22–23 (NASB95): 22</u> Pilate *said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all *said, "Crucify Him!" 23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Christians identify with Christ, while these that the passage is talking about identify the people from these passages in the gospels.</p> <p>— Pilate, a Roman, had more morality than these do.</p> <p>— — These people want Jesus done away with even if He is who He says He is.</p> <p>— — — They want Jesus gone because Jesus cause us to be new or reject Him.</p> <p>— — — — He reveals our darkness: <u>READ: John 1:5 (NASB95): 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</u></p> <p>— — — — — And He will shine out of the darkness: <u>READ: 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB95): 6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.</u></p>
	<p>There are those like those here in this passage that would rather reject the light and live in the darkness; to live in selfishness.</p> <p>— They have rejected the one and only way to God, identifying and agreeing with those who put Jesus to death.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: John 12:48–50 (NASB95): 48 “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. 49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 “I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.”</u></p> <p>— — <u>READ: Matthew 10:33 (NASB95): 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.</u></p> <p>— — <u>READ: Isaiah 53:3 (NASB95): 3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, not only do these identify and agree with those who put Christ to death but they make it impossible to renew them to repentance.</p> <p>— We must remember that repentance is a change of heart; a change of mind.</p> <p>— — READ: 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NASB95): 14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.</p> <p>— — READ: Acts 3:19 (NASB95): 19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;</p> <p>— — — Repentance is more than a mental act but it is a heart/conscience/life/you change.</p> <p>— — — — READ: Job 42:1–6 (NASB95): 1 Then Job answered the Lord and said, 2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. 3 ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ “Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.” 4 ‘Hear, now, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct me.’ 5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; 6 Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.”</p> <p>— — — — — It is important to note that those who identify with those that put Christ to death and reject the faith are described as those that it is impossible to repent. BELIEVERS WE NEED TO BE REPENTING PEOPLE!!!</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Then in verses 7-8 we are given an agricultural illustration.</p> <p>— The rain that falls on the ground both the ground that produces fruit and that produces thorns and thistles are the continual blessings from God.</p> <p>— — God’s continual blessings fall on all humanity and not just certain people but what we learn about in this agricultural illustration is that what we do with the blessings of God will determine what kind of field we will be.</p> <p>— — — The useful field receives the rain and works the field cultivating and keeping as we were instructed in the beginning: READ: Genesis 2:15 (NASB95): 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. And the field produced fruit.</p> <p>— — — — Christians receive the blessings from God and they work hard to change themselves so that the blessing of God can be fully utilized through them. When the heart is worked on and utilizing the blessings from God well; it produces fruit: READ: Galatians 5:22–23 (NASB95): 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.</p> <p>— — — — — And by producing fruit we proved to be disciples of Christ: READ: John 15:8 (NASB95): 8 “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The other field that the blessing of God falls on as well does not get tilled, does not get worked, but drinks the rain and produces whatever seed the world around it as brought it.</p> <p>— This field does not bring fruit but thrones and thistles.</p> <p>— — These thorns and thistles have quite a curse with them: READ: Genesis 3:17–19 (NASB95): 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread,</p> <p>— — — Thorns and thistles are worthless and are only good to be burnt.</p>
	<p>The unbelieving person takes the blessings of God and uses them as expectation. As he is entitled to them.</p> <p>— He does nothing with the blessings of God; he does not change and is not working and not changing; he produces nothing useful.</p> <p>— — READ: Matthew 7:17–21 (NASB95): 17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.</p> <p>— — — Hendriksen wrote, “If the heart of man is evil, all the blessings of God do not make him prosper spiritually. Instead, God’s blessings, when they re rejected by an unbelieving heart, eventually are turned into a curse. And the unbeliever stands condemned.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, how do we apply all that we have learned to our lives? What is our practical application?</p> <p>— We need to be different, we need to be changed.</p> <p>— — The way we stay away from backsliding is run to God.</p> <p>— — — We need to check our hearts because it reveals a lot about our condition.</p> <p>— — — — What are you doing with the blessings that God is giving you?</p> <p>— — — — — Are you making use of God’s blessings or are you wasting them.</p>
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