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**Week 14 Sermon, November 26, 2023**

**Hebrews 6:1-8 – *Spiritual Maturity, Part 2***

**Discussion Questions**

1. Warnings are a means by which believers are preserved in God. Review the warnings the writer of Hebrews has given up to this point in his letter (see 2:1, 3:7-19 & 5:11-14). Though 6:3 reminds us that maturity is enabled by God, how long does it take you to turn to God on any given day and why is it easier when life seems upside down? Share some disciplines you have to ensure growth in your own spiritual walk.
  2. This passage in Hebrews is highly contested by different scholars. Some even use it to “prove” one can lose his/her salvation. What evidence would you give to someone who believes this? How can we be sure the author is not trying to unsettle our assurance of faith but rather to strengthen it?
  3. In verse 1, we see the exhortation to leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity. Though the writer includes a quick description of these foundational teachings for his Jewish audience, his point was that the believers needed to grow beyond these basics. Spend time discussing the doctrines of justification, sanctification, and glorification. How have you grown in your understanding of these doctrines? Discuss resources and practices that have helped you grow in other areas of theology.
  4. Verses 4-6 tell of endangerment but to whom? The pronouns move from first to third person (*they, those*); is this significant? What is the difference between participating in the truth and possessing the truth? See also Matthew 7:21-23, Galatians 3:3, 1 John 2:18-19.
  5. Does God permit all Christians to mature? We are dependent on His grace to move forward, but what is our responsibility? What do we find in John 1:12-13, Phil.1:6, 2:12-13, Acts 13:48 and Romans 8:33-39?
  6. What does apostasy mean? Have you ever been tempted to abandon your profession of faith? Have you become comfortable or complacent in your Christian walk? How can we counsel ourselves or others in a crisis of faith? Turn to our benediction (Hebrews 7:25) and read it aloud, rejoicing in the hopeful, powerful reminder we find there.
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