

Hebrews 6

vs 1 - 3 Time to end the baby Christian stage and grow up. We must ask ourselves, is my life teaching others the faith, have I moved on from the foundation toward Christ likeness? Here is the foundation, the early milk of the word: Repentance - wages of sin is death - metanoia - making a change of direction, agreeing with God about our sin and it's destructiveness and forsaking it. Baby Christians are continually repenting (really just feeling sorry but not enough to change) of the same sin and not moving on. Faith in God - believing He is and not continually insisting He prove himself to you like the Children of Israel in the wilderness. Instruction on baptism - Simple steps and symbolism. The early diadache (apostles instructions 100AD) told exactly how to go about it and the preferences, running cold water, fast 2 to 3 days before, the baptiser one day before, name of the Father Son and HG, etc. The Laying on of Hands mentioned seven times in the New Testament 1Tim 5:22, receiving the Spirit, anointing for ministry, or dedication to a ministry. Resurrection of the Dead - see 1Thes 4 and 1Co 15 and Eternal Judgement - Da 12:2 This foundational doctrine is often in question especially by Universalists and second chancers.

vs 4 - 6 Here is a most problematic passage for the Calvinist (once saved always saved). He must first say that the above verses are about Old Testament ritual, then he assumes that the church is mostly unsaved Jews, then that they have cooperated with the Spirit but only up to the point of salvation, tasted the Word but not received it. The Arminian just says it says what it says: If you have moved from the shadows to the reality and prefer to go back you are apostate and have no hope of return. see vs 3:12 -14 The IMPOSSIBLES of Hebrews: This passage, 6:18 God to lie, 10:4 blood of bulls and goats to take away sin, 11:6 please God without faith.

vs 7 - 12 Mt 7:20 The heart is exhibited in the life. We reproduce what we are! vs 11 is another problem for Calvinists. What can "if you endure to the end" mean? Facing persecution to the death situation meant that those renouncing Christ were not only betraying their brothers but also their Lord who died for them. Remember the legend of "Quo vadis" ? vs 12 is a stern warning not to get lazy but imitate the faithful. But then

notice in this the sternest of sections in Hebrews the "dear friends" and "each one of you" The writer has God's personal concern for each one.

vs 13 - 20 Genesis 15:4 vs 15 a 25 year wait (patiently ?) God sees the heart. vs 18 His word and an oath, two unchangeables. "fled" like a murderer to a city of refuge. Be encouraged! Lay hold of the word of promise and the oath to be doubly sure, the blessed and the many in the promise. This hope is in the Holy of Holies in heaven. Anchor was a symbol of hope in the Greek literature of this period. Our anchor is Jesus our righteousness who is our hope and is forever before God an acceptable sacrifice. Unlike the priest of the shadow who could only come once a year and only for a short time lest he die, Jesus ever lives to make intercession for you. "went before" our forerunner, trailblazer... we can follow with boldness because He has gone before and sprinkled His blood on the mercy seat. We can approach the throne of grace and make our requests.