

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for December 28, 2014

Pressing on to Maturity
Hebrews 6:4-8

Christ's priesthood is superior to all other priesthoods (Hebrews 4:14-10:18).

The author, after having introduced the Son's divine appointment according to the order of Melchizedek, then took a strategic detour in order to warn his readers in Hebrews 5:11-6:20.

The author began this warning section with an exhortation (Hebrews 5:11-6:3).

After the author exhorted his readers, he then presented a harsh warning (Hebrews 6:4-8).

The author began this harsh warning section with an assertion (Hebrews 6:4-6).

The author in Hebrews 6:4-6 asserted that it is impossible to renew to repentance those who fall away after they had enjoyed certain spiritual blessings.

The descriptive phrase "having once been enlightened" most likely referred to the initial exposure to the gospel and the early instruction in Christ doctrine.

The descriptive phrase having "tasted of the heavenly gift" most likely referred to having experienced the blessings of God that surround salvation.

The descriptive phrase having "been made partakers of the holy spirit" most likely referred to someone having become "sharers of" the Holy Spirit.

The descriptive phrase having "tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come" most likely referred to having experienced God's good word.

The author in Hebrews 6:4-6 was not describing true born again believers but unsaved professing believers who because of their attachment to the church had experienced certain spiritual blessings.

Those who "fall away" or in other words who reject Christ and the message of Christ and return back to their former life in spite of these spiritual blessings will not be able to be renewed again to repentance.

The impossibility of God renewing a person to repentance was explained by this author in two parallel clauses at the end of verse six.

Those who had been in such a blessed position and then had fallen away were in effect rejecting the saving work of the Son and showing contempt for Him just as those who crucified Him.

Those who had been in a blessed position and who then had fallen away had in effect put Christ to open shame because they made it possible for Christ to once again to be publicly mocked.

May God give us the grace to pursue maturity so that we, rather than falling away and being ultimately cursed might find ourselves persevering and being ultimately blessed.