



JESUS, THE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

Lesson 7 for February 12, 2022

From Hebrews 5:11 to Hebrews 6:20, Paul interrupted his speech about Jesus' priesthood to exhort his audience.

He explained them why they were not ready to fully understand his reasoning. He also reproached them and encouraged them.

We are encouraged to avoid being lazy, and to hold on to the "anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19), Jesus.



➡ Looking back:

- 🟡 Tasting the good (6:4-5)
- 🟢 Falling into sin (6:6)
- 🟣 No turning back (10:26-29)

➡ Standing on the present:

- 🟢 Labor of love (6:9-12)
- 🟡 Anchor of the soul (6:13-20)



TASTING THE GOOD

"[...] those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come," (Hebrews 6:4-5)

Which had been the experience of Paul's audience (and ours?)?

Enlightened

They had been converted and liberated from sin. They had walked away from darkness (Eph. 5:8)



Tasted the heavenly gift

They had tasted the gift of God's grace (Eph. 2:8)



Partakers of the Holy Spirit

They had received the Holy Spirit and had been led by Him (Rom. 8:5)



Tasted the good word of God

They had tasted the word of God through the Scriptures and the Word (Jn. 1:14)



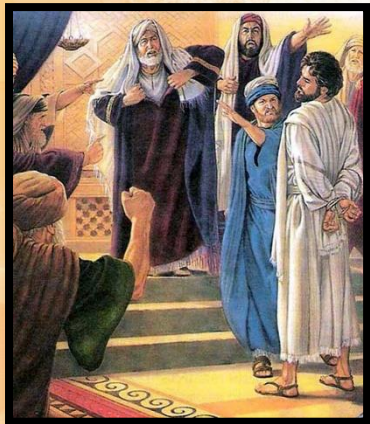
Tasted the powers of the age to come

They tasted what God has prepared ahead of time: the resurrection (Col. 2:12), the renovation (Rom. 12:2), the eternal life (Jn. 5:24)



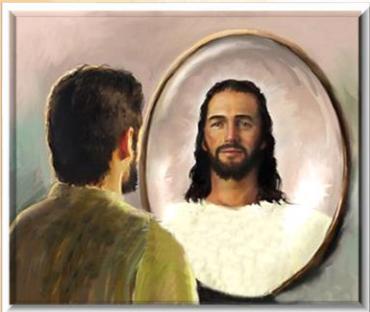
FALLING INTO SIN

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened [...] if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." (Hebrews 6:4, 6)



The Jewish leaders crucified Jesus because He had endangered their power.

If we have accepted Jesus as our Savior but then reject Him as the only means of salvation, we are "crucifying Him again" and "putting Him to an open shame." We would be urging to be in the limelight by our means.



This attitude goes against the Jesus' teachings. He encouraged us to be crucified; this is, to die to ourselves and to carry His reproach with Him (Mt. 16:24; Heb. 13:13).

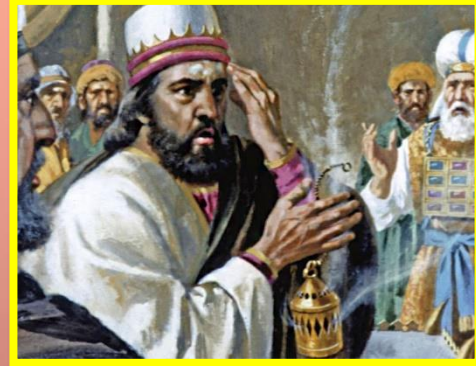
We cannot be "renewed to repentance" if we don't agree that "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

NO TURNING BACK

“For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,” (Hebrews 10:26)

Paul indirectly quoted Numbers 15:30-31, about the person who does anything “presumptuously.” He was obviously not talking about sins that are committed unintentionally or because of weakness for a specific temptation (1Jn. 2:1), but something more serious.

Paul was talking about “sin leading to death” (1Jn. 5:16), which is defined as follows (Heb. 10:29):



Trampling the Son of God.
Rejecting Jesus as their Lord, placing themselves as lord in His place



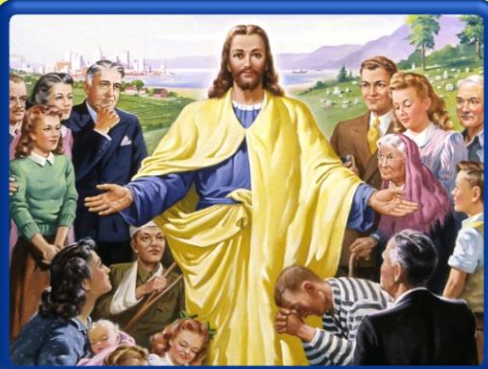
Counting the blood of the covenant a common thing.
Rejecting the sacrifice of Jesus



Insulting the Spirit of grace. Having sinned against the Holy Spirit (Mr. 3:29)

LABOR OF LOVE

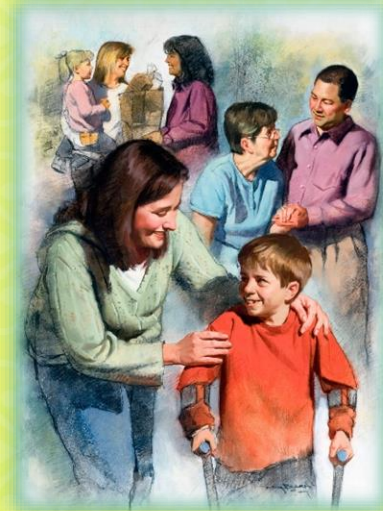
"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10)



After such a harsh message, Paul told his audience that he was sure none of them had sinned against the Holy Spirit but were still holding to Jesus as their Savior (Heb. 6:9).

He proved it by recalling all the work of love they had done for Christ. That is not one-time actions, but a lifestyle. God acknowledges, approves, and praises this type of labor (Rev. 2:2-3, 19).

Hope is not kept alive by intellectual exercises of faith, but by faith expressed in acts of love.



ANCHOR OF THE SOUL

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil," (Hebrews 6:19)

Paul finished his appeal by mentioning the certainty of our salvation. It is like a steadfast anchor that is fixed with "two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18): His promise of a Savior, and the oath that supports that promise (Gn. 22:16-17; Ps. 89:35-36).

Everything points to Jesus. After Jesus ascended, He entered "behind the veil" and sat at the right hand of God as our precursor (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 6:20).

He undoubtedly is our "anchor of the soul," and the certainty of the promises yet to come.



E. G. W. (The Upward Look, January 5)

“Jesus has told us of our danger and warned us against the wily foe. He has repeatedly enjoined upon us the duty of always watching and praying, lest we enter into temptation. Believe in Jesus, trust in Jesus with living, constant faith, and rely without doubt upon Jesus to keep and save you. One mighty to save has hold upon you, and as long as you will submit to be led by Him, to learn of Him, to confide in Him, He will keep you from falling. And, when God engages to keep you, He is a sure defense.”