

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



6. An Encouragement & a Warning

Introduction

Do you find that you need to remind your children about the same things again and again? We are often like that in our Christian life, and God has to remind us many times. In the passage from the Book of Hebrews that we are going to study, there are more warnings about the danger of falling away. However there is also an encouragement to keep moving on. Let's look at these.

1. An Encouragement to Move on Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3

- ❖ From these verses make a comparison between an immature Christian and one who is mature. How do we know if a person is really mature?
- ❖ In v14 it says that mature Christians have trained themselves 'by constant use'. What does this mean?
- ❖ What were the basic doctrines taught in the early church? Hebrews 6:1-2
- ❖ Look through the list of these doctrines – are there any that you feel you do not know enough about? Share. (Perhaps you can study those next.)
- ❖ What is God's purpose for every believer, including yourself? Hebrews 6:1, James 1:4, Ephesians 4:13

Reality Check

After studying these verses, how would you grade yourself? Are you still a baby Christian, or are you maturing?

2. A Warning not to Backslide Hebrews 6:4-8

One reason why it is important that we grow to maturity is so we won't backslide. The writer has already warned us several times, and now he cautions us again.

- ❖ How would you describe the kind of Christian it speaks about in Hebrews 6:4-5, 8?
- ❖ Why is it difficult for such a person to be brought back to repentance? V6 c.f. Hebrews 10:26-27
- ❖ How can we guard ourselves from the danger of backsliding? Discuss.

3. An Encouragement to be Patient Hebrews 6:9-20

- ❖ If a person is genuinely saved there will be evidence in his life. What will 'accompany salvation'? V7-11
- ❖ What quality did Abraham demonstrate that we are to follow? V12, 15. What can we learn from him?

- ❖ What is another reason given to encourage us to press on till the end? See v18-20
- ❖ Has there been a time in your life when your faith in Jesus has been like an 'anchor' that has held you? Share with one another.

Conclusion

God has provided everything we need to live a godly life through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have forgiveness of sin, grace in times of need and the Word of God. His desire for each one of us is that we grow to maturity and produce fruit. Sadly there are some who have turned back from walking with the Lord, while others remain infants, needing to be taught the same things again and again. Let's take heed to the warning in the Book of Hebrews, and press on to become mature Christians, following the example of men like Abraham. It is worthwhile and we have a wonderful hope before us. Press on!