

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 15, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 6:1-8

Memory Passage: Philippians 1:6 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 6:1-3.** What is the main concern that the writer has for these believers (summarize the purpose for these verses)?

(b) Verse 1 begins with “therefore.” Look back at Hebrews 5:12-14. What was the writer’s concern here? Is it the salvation of his readers or something else?

(c) How are “works” described in these verses? What should be our attitude toward trusting in our works either for salvation (Titus 3:3-5) or for sanctification (Galatians 3:3)? How are repentance and faith connected (Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9)?

(d) What does he conclude is essential for these to move on to maturity (verse 3)? Compare this with what Paul taught in Philippians 2:12-13. What two things are essential for Christian maturity?

(e) How does this remind us that our growth is dependent on God’s power working in us (also see John 15:5)?

(f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 6:1-3 and discuss why growing in Christ is essential for believers. How does a person become mature spiritually? Is a person mature just because they have the right doctrines or is spiritual maturity more than right beliefs? Read Philippians 1:6 and 2:12-13 together. Who secures our salvation? Who secures our growth in Christ? Pray that each of you might grow in His knowledge and grace this year.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 6:4-5.** Are these descriptions of those that might fall away descriptions of believers or non-believers?

(b) What does the word “enlightened” indicate about these? Compare how this term is used in Hebrews 10:32. Is he speaking about believers in this passage?

(c) Look up the word “partakers” in a Bible dictionary or examine this verse in a couple of other translations (also consider Romans 15:27; Ephesians 3:6; and Colossians 1:12-14.). How is the word used in Hebrews 2:14; 3:1 and 12:8, 10? What then is the relationship of these to the Holy Spirit?

(d) Some have suggested that the word “tasted” indicates a slight taste and therefore these are not believers. Look up the word “tasted” in a Bible dictionary or concordance. What is the definition of this word? Compare its use in Hebrews 2:9 – What does it mean for Jesus to “taste death?” How does that affect your understanding of who these people are?

(e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 6:4-5 and Colossians 1:12-14. Talk about some of the things that happen when a person becomes a believer in Christ. Are any of these mentioned in these verses? Discuss the idea of being “partakers.” What does this term mean? How are we “partakers” with Christ and with the Holy Spirit? Pray for the salvation of someone still in spiritual darkness.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 6:4-6.** Review again – who is it “impossible ... to renew again to repentance”? What questions do these verses raise about assurance of salvation?

(b) Can a Christian ever lose his salvation? Read John 6:37-40. Why did Jesus “come down from heaven”? What is the Father’s will? If even one that the Father gives to Jesus is lost, how does that affect the salvation Jesus gives to all?

(c) Read Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5 and Jude 24-25. Who is responsible for “keeping” us in salvation? What does it mean if a believer ever loses his salvation? In John 10:27-30, how are we protected as the sheep of His fold?

(d) Read Hebrews 2:14-16. What “fear” did Jesus come to free us from? How does assurance of salvation free a person from that fear? Can a person unsure of his salvation be free from this fear?

(e) *Family*: Read Hebrews 6:4-6 and John 6:37-40. Talk about who is responsible for our salvation. Who gives it to us? What do we do to get it? What do we do to keep it? What does this tell us about assurance of salvation? Spend some time thanking God for the salvation that He has provided for all who believe.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 6:4-6 again.** What is “impossible?” Is it impossible to renew them to salvation or something else?

(b) Is repentance only used for salvation or is it also something that believers must do (Consider Revelation 2:5; 3:3; 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:9)?

(c) Note: most translations say it is impossible “*since* they ...” However, this word can be translated “*while* they ...” How would this translation affect the understanding of falling away?

(d) How were these Hebrew Christians putting Jesus to an open shame (Hebrews 10:29; 12:4; 12:11-15)?

(e) *Family*: Read Hebrews 6:4-6. What happens when we stubbornly refuse to obey God? Do we lose our salvation? What do we lose? Read Hebrews 12:5-15. Why does God discipline us? Pray that each may be faithful to the Lord and not have to experience His discipline.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 6:7-8.** These verses are an illustration of the teaching in Hebrews 6:1-6. There are two groups that the writer refers to. What are these two? What is similar and different in these two soils? What is God looking for from each?

(b) What happens to the soil that bears good fruit? What happens to the soil that bears only thorns and briars? Is it cursed? Is it destroyed?

(c) What does the burning refer to? Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-15. Are these believers that Paul is addressing (verses 1-3)? What is the problem (verses 4-10)? Is Paul referring to their salvation or to something else?

(d) In 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Paul talks about the issue of rewards. What is the only essential for salvation (1 Corinthians 3:11)?

(e) What is the fire for – the works of non-believers or believers? What happens if everything a person has done is destroyed by this fire? Can this person be saved? Compare this to the burning in Hebrews 6:7-8.

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 6:7-8 and 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. Talk about the rewards that God gives us for faithfully serving Him? What happens to a Christian if they are not growing and serving? What is the warning that Hebrews 6 is giving us? Pray that you might be fruitful for the Lord and have works that will endure the fire.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 6:1-8. Why is growing in Christ so important? What happens if a person does not go on to maturity? Is this passage about losing salvation or about something else? What are some of the verses you read this week that give you assurance? Pray for your church services tomorrow that many will hear God’s Word and live fruitful lives for His glory!