

# Him Who Works vs. Believe God - Works = Debt, Death and Ruin

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*The Just Shall Live By Faith*

By Stephen A. Chronister

**Bible Text:** Hebrews 5:10-14; Hebrews 6:1-20

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[Transcriber's note: The audio underlying this transcript contains many sections in which the speaker moves away from the microphone. Instances where words and/or sentences are unintelligible are marked by the characters: {?.}]

Here we are, January 15, 2012, lecture discussion number 52 on the book of Romans. And I should announce for the people who are on the internet that it is as low as 18 below, I understand today in Anchorage and we have... what have we got, 12 feet of snow, 10 feet of snow, whatever we have got here. So be happy that you are not here with us and be really happy you are not in Fairbanks or Valdez for that matter, Whittier, all places that I have spent too much time.

Ok. We have found ourselves battling through the five warnings of the book of Hebrews and we have found ourselves doing that because of Romans four and that Romans four is the definitive place in the Scripture, that is where the Holy Spirit uses the apostle Paul to do this, to put these two things in contrast with each other. Those who believe God, ok, and God commands us to believe him.

So we have two types of people, those who believe God with respect to his salvation and the other kind of people contrasted, he calls them him who works. And so right off the bat, now, in Romans we have this tremendous comparison and this tremendous battle, if you will as it has gone on for ages. But those are the two sides. You are on one side or the other. You cannot be on both sides much to the dismay of those who will try to say so. That should be obvious here as the lecture goes along over the next few weeks.

But they are absolute opposites. Him who works is the absolute opposite of believe God with respect to salvation and the doctrine of salvation. And what that means, to restate the obvious, is that if someone has mankind's salvation, mankind's reconciliation with God, mankind's eternal life—and, by the way, this is as God defines life. Life does not mean existence to God. He does not define it as existence. Everyone has existence. Everyone has a destiny. There are two distinct places that you exist. One is with God. Existence with God, peace with God in his presence, he calls that life. That is his definition of life. So let's start again here.

If someone declares that salvation is accomplished by human effort or human work or human directed, then that, those such persons do not believe God and do not believe what the Scriptures say. That is Romans 4:3. It is plain as day right on the table, can't miss it.

Those who are human based do not believe God. Their works are debt, death and ruin. That is the essence of Romans four. That is Paul's fundamental teaching in Romans four. That is why Romans four becomes so prominent and so valuable to know.

Now, needless to say, many religious persons—and I have never been accused of being a religious person by anybody who knows me—but many religious persons—I would like someday to be recognized as a religious person, just to know that I could get into the right restaurants or something. I don't think it is going to happen soon. I don't know what causes people to say that I am not a religious person. Don't most religious persons drink Diet Coke during the sermon? I think they do or they should. But anyway, there are many religious persons, not to make them unhappy with me, but they are very unhappy with Romans four. They cannot accept that God's plan of salvation is a belief system. They do not like it being a belief system {?} faith, grace {?} It cannot be any other way. And that, by the way, is because he is omniscient. He would have known if there was another way, wouldn't he? But they cannot accept the religious sides of things, that God's plan is a salvation... I am sorry, God's plan of salvation is a belief system. Whosoever believes in Christ should not perish, but have eternal life. Whosoever believes. It is not whosoever works. {?} That is your side. Pick a side. You are on one side, whether you want to be or not. You cannot be on both sides, because the sides, as I said, are absolute opposites.

Belief, many times I say this in order to get it though, but you never know. Some people, with all the... many people who now listen on the internet it is bare repeating. Belief is not a physical act. Belief is a supernatural act. It is a non physical. If it is not physical it is supernatural. So belief is a spiritual act as is faith. Belief and faith in Jesus Christ who is God himself, Creator God, the creator of all things, that is who he is in the flesh. He added humanity so that we could understand the invisible God. He is the invisible made visible. Ok? That is what that is all about, the adding of humanity. So faith, belief in Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, that is what saves, a supernatural, non physical act, because you really {?} You are made of two different substances. One of your substances is a spiritual substance. The other is a physical substance. They are made of different material. The spiritual material is different. They are different substances. Hence, substance, Dualism, two substances versus Monism which is evolutionary thought, evolutionary philosophy. And you are only one substance {?}. You are saved with a non physical event, a spiritual event. The spiritual part of you, the belief part, non physical.

And people don't like that much. They don't like it at all. They want to add themselves into God's plan. They want to do this. They want to be part of the process. I always ask, "Why do you want to be part of the process?" We have a really good system here and what do you want to do with it? You want to add yourself. I don't want you in it. I certainly don't want you in mine. And you would be wise not to want me in yours. Don't pollute it, right? But people don't like it. They want to add themselves into God's

plan and really the reason is, very simple, they want what? They want control. They want authority, same thing. They want power and they want credit. They want to be responsible for their salvation. They don't want it to be a gift. They want to go and earn it so then they can say, "Well, my... I earned mine. You didn't earn yours. Therefore I am what?" That is right. Betty Lou better than you.

And, thus, we go into the five warnings of the book of Hebrews. That is how we got {?} Very important to know that there are five warnings {?} identify the five warnings, you don't know the five warnings are there, you have no idea that there is even five warnings or what they are warning and who they are warning that you are not going to get through Hebrews very easily. In fact, you won't get through it. Just help you out there.

So we end up in the five warnings of the book of Hebrews because of this discussion in Romans four which so many people on the him who works side. So many people who have the him who works the purveyors of the him who works, they attempt to get around Romans four because it is a big problem. We are going to deal with the problem. If I have a works faith, a human based salvation system where I demand a human effort and human obedience and a set of regulations and a set of traditions and a set of organizational statutes have to be followed, otherwise you will lose your membership, you lose your membership and you are no longer a member in good standing, then you lose your parking space and you lose your parking space you lose your choir robe and if you lose your choir robe then you can't take communion and you are not part of the buffet, then what has happened to you? That is right, you have lost your salvation because I deem it so as I am the grand poo bah of whatever particular organization I happen to run for the money. And so the people who are on the him who works side, they distort Hebrews, the five warnings and they corrupt it. They corrupt the clear meaning, all in order to bind and ensnare the weak, by the way, and to get around the clear teaching of Romans four. And last couple of Sundays we trudged through the warning and knocked out one warning. And that is the warning against disobedience. And the disobedience was to stay out of the city of Jerusalem for the Hebrew Christians whom that warning was given to. He is saying, "Don't go back to the city of Jerusalem. Don't go back to Israel. Do not go back into a pharisaical Judaism." That is Hebrews 3:7 through 4:13.

Now remember always. When you are in the five {?} you get to go first in the buffet you have to answer {?} The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. It cannot be committed by an individual. You cannot commit it. It is committed by a nation and that nation has to have God in the flesh in front of them. So they must be a nation. In this case it is the nation of Israel and they must have God in the flesh in front of them, Creator God in front of them in the flesh. They must see him and talk to him and then they must reject his kingship or his messiahship on the basis that it isn't really God there, that he has Satan inside of him. He is possessed by Satan. That is the definition of the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit or the unpardonable sin. You cannot commit it. You are not the nation of Israel, ok? Got that again.

And that occurs in Matthew 12. And the judgment on the nation of Israel because of Matthew 12 is the destruction of their {?} the temple and the city of Jerusalem {?} is

where that comes from, Jehovah Jireh means God will provide a sacrifice, or peace, if you will.

So the first or the second warning is Paul telling the Hebrew Christians, "Don't go back." Because of Matthew 12 if you go back to Jerusalem the temple will be destroyed there and the city will be destroyed. It was in AD 70, did you know, but {?}. He came in and took the gold out of the temple and he killed everybody and so that is what Paul is saying to the Hebrew Christians in Hebrews three and that is the second warning. Do not disobey the commandment, if you will, to stay out of the city and stay out of Judaic ... Pharisaism or pharisaical Judaism. Ok?

And next, last Sunday, lecture number 51, that is for the internet folks, we started on the third warning, the danger of immaturity. So second warning danger of disobeying the commandment to stay out of Jerusalem and out of Pharisaism and, excuse me, because of Matthew 12 the rejection of the messiahship of Jesus the Christ, God in the flesh. That was the second warning. Now third warning and we started that last week and that is the danger of immaturity and that warning is against remaining stagnant.

You see, you would not go back to Judaism. You would not go back to Jerusalem. You would not disobey what is the result of Matthew 12, the commandment to stay out by God himself, you would not do that unless you were what? Weak, immature. And so the warning against immaturity, the warning against remaining stagnant, failing to {?} failing to... refusing to move to become wise. That is Hebrews 5:11—6:20, those of you who are following along. {?} But we will get to that perhaps in a few minutes. And if I am correct I didn't get past Hebrews 6:6 last week and so that is where we are going to go right now. We are going to reset the second or the third warning, I am sorry. So open your textbooks to Hebrews five. Let's start at verse 10 because I like to do that just to bring in Melchizedek. And let's... you read along while I read it into the record.

"...called by God as High Priest 'according to the order of Melchizedek...'"<sup>1</sup>

I read this because I am about to add a whole lot more. Let me repeat 5:10.

"...called by God as High Priest..."<sup>2</sup>

Stop reading fast. High priest, Melchizedek. A man to hear, have a man to spell Melchizedek backwards, which he will do. Scary.

...called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 5:10.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 5:10-11.

Last week I said it this way. Because you have become stupid, because you have become dull of hearing you don't understand who the high priest is or why the high priest is there and how it is connected to the high priest that is Melchizedek. You don't know any of this and because you don't know any of this, you are stagnating and refusing to become wise. You have no wisdom. You won't take the time. You refuse to learn. You don't care. You won't do it and therefore you are what? You are a victim.

One of my favorite books to talk to people about is by a gentleman that is not Christian at all. Please don't think he is, called Gavin de Becker who wrote *Gift of Fear*. And I give it to girls a lot because I want girls to be aware of what is out there in the criminal element, how they think, how they target you, how they figure out who to target, how to get selected, how to be one of the wise so you can navigate dangerous places, how to keep... as you know, one of the most favorite things I do in life is talking to telemarketers. And what I love to do is to do to the telemarketers what they do to us. I just love that. All I did was spend a few minutes learning telemarketing techniques. It is one of my little hobbies when I was younger back in the 1840s before the Civil War. But I used to... I seriously I had a guy call me from Allstate. I don't want to pick on Allstate, but he was a nice young man, Jason.

Hi, Jason.

And he went through his system with me. Do you want the best possible insurance ever? No. I don't. You don't? For the cheapest price you don't want the best insurance? No. I don't want it.

See, he had been taught by telemarketers to only get a yes out of me and if I give him a yes, then he wins. And I am not going to let him win. I am going to tell him no to everything. Is this Steve Chronister? No. Never give a yes to a telemarketer. It destroys them. Pretty soon they break down laughing because they can't do anything. They can't move you at all. Well, that is what I want you to be. I want you to know this is a small and shallow example. If you know high priest in Melchizedek you jump from one of the victims, you jump from victimhood, one of the weak, one of the ones who walk into traps and get fooled so easily, who struggle through life and you start to become one of the wise. And this is what he is saying to you right off the bat. Because you are weak, you don't know who Melchizedek... I can't talk to you about Melchizedek. I can't even talk to you about the high priest structure and sacrificial system, because you are dull of hearing. That is how we start.

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”<sup>4</sup>

I can't give you solid food, he says. You are a weakling. You are useless. You can't fight. You are in the... oh, by the way, next week I was talking to Kathy about this. He says in Scripture, God does, “Don't forsake the assembly.” Why does he say that? Is the

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<sup>4</sup> Hebrews 5:12.

assembly a great place? Is this fun? Are we really liking this? Ok, we have got Kentucky Fried Chicken today so maybe that is not a good day to bring it up. Music was free, guys. But why do we... why does he say, first, don't forsake the assembly? Is the assembly filled with really nice wonderful people that...? No, that is heaven. You were here for the Christmas party. You know what these people were like. This is brutal.

I had one gentleman come up who doesn't come here, but Andy, bless his heart, he comes up. He says, "They guy is going to steal my {?}. I am so angry I can barely deal with it." So he brings up the worst in me. Yes, it does. That is the old adage, right? The Christmas party does not build character. It reveals character and that is what it does. And sports, whatever your A, whatever your thing.

Don't forsake the assembly because of what it says about you when you do that. What are you saying when you forsake the assembly? I want to be around those people? What did you just say about yourself? Oh, by the way, are those people fun, nice? No. But you don't want to be around them. How come? What is the reason? {?} Thank God I am not like that tax collector, right? That is what you say, right? Thank God I am not like those nasty people at Cliffside. I don't need to be around them or anybody else, because I am what? Better? Is that what you think? You in big {?} trouble right off the bat. God does not want you to forsake the assembly. That is a direct command from your commanding officer. Don't do it.

Does he get anything out of it? What does God get out of us? What is the answer to that? You should yell it out. What does God get out of us? Nothing. What are you saying about God when you forsake the assembling? See, it is not only what are you saying about yourself, but what are you saying about God?

Anyway, next week I might go through all of those things. The reason I thought of it just now is because Kathy talked to me earlier and because this is a situation where you are in an army. You have a weapon and a uniform. And you are telling God, "I don't want to wear my weapon. I don't want to go to the fort. I don't want to... I want to stay home by myself and sit in my room and play video games till my eyes bleed or watch TV." So be careful with that attitude. Don't forsake the assembly for what it says about you.

But in this case here is spiritual immaturity and he is saying to them, "I can't use you, really, very much, because you don't know what to do. You are in the Christian soldier business. You have got your uniform and a gun, but you shoot the wrong direction." And, as I said last week, you can't tie your shoes. You can't feed yourself. We have to carry you around. What do you know about the high priest that ... and the high priest Melchizedek?

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid

food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God<sup>5</sup>

{?} Don't stay in a place where you think your human effort is going to save you or some tradition is going to go save you or some ... I don't know ordinance, membership. What saves you? Belief. Faith in the name, in the blood of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh. That is what saves you. You have corrupted blood and corrupted faith and flesh and you need a blood transfusion and you need a flesh ... you need serious plastic surgery. Just look at yourselves. He has got the resources. He is the only one with the material. He can accomplish it. That is why he is called the great healer. All of us need new blood and we need new flesh. I think that is what it is about. And that is what communion is. It is a symbol of that. It is not what communion... never mind. Don't get me started there yet.

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”<sup>6</sup>

Get that figured out. Get Romans four figured out. Dead works is useless. Belief is how it is. That is the salvation system. And then now:

“...of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead...”<sup>7</sup>

You have got to know all the resurrections and of the great white throne. Those are the first principles. I will put it on the board in a second.

And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible for 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, 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.<sup>8</sup>

Ok. Very helpful when we get into one of these {?}

It begins with high priest and Melchizedek. Do you know who the high priest or what the high priest is, what that represents? Do you know who the high priest Melchizedek, how is Melchizedek? You have got to know it. How come you have to know it? That is how this starts. You don't even understand what he is saying. How are you going to figure it

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<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 5:12—6:1.

<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 6:1.

<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 6:2.

<sup>8</sup> Hebrews 6:3-6.

out? So right off the bat you have to answer: Who is Melchizedek? I will tell you really quickly. Melchizedek is Christ himself, pre incarnate, if you will or a Christophany or a Theophany as it is called. It is Christ before he put himself into humanity in that sense, came in the human form and he was Melchizedek back in Genesis 14.

Now you should note Hebrews 6:20. Don't turn there. It also says high priest Melchizedek and Hebrews 5:6. It also says high priest Melchizedek. Obviously, high priest Melchizedek is doing this. {?} Everything that I just read is bracketed by... I am sorry, Mel priest. Never mind.

Where is my... All of this that I just read is bracketed by high priest Melchizedek and so it is in a high priest Melchizedek context and in a high priest context. So all of that, you have to understand the high priest and you have to understand the Melchizedek. And, by the way, when you do that, that explains seven, eight and nine of Hebrews chapter five. Let me read that.

...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.<sup>9</sup>

That is another chapter, another Hebrews passage that is used to further the ambitions of the denier of Christ's deity. The people who do not believe, who do not know, who don't care that Jesus Christ himself is God himself, creator of all things, he is the creator of the creator. He is the creator of all things. He is the creator of time, matter, energy, space, all things. The people who don't believe that, who think that Jesus Christ is just simply another nice person who God kind of every now and then would come and turn on a switch. So sometimes Christ is just a guy, sometimes {?} he has got power. Oh, then the switch goes off again. A little more power. And they think that Christ is crying and whining and complaining and doesn't know things. And the truth is he is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God at all time. There is never a time when he is anything but that. He can't be anything but who he is.

I don't have any time today to make an exposition of Hebrews 5:7-9 except to say that those three verses do the opposite of what they are mostly used for. They powerfully declare the godhood of Christ. And that is obvious when you understand that there within the high priest Melchizedek bracket. When you understand that, then it makes sense. And that is why you have to go there. Otherwise you will get confused and somebody will come along and hit you upside the head and say, "Oh, look it. Christ is crying for himself." Does it say that Christ was crying for himself? It doesn't say that. It says you cry. Who is he crying for? Not himself? Who is left? Yeah. Why is he crying? Not for himself.

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<sup>9</sup> Hebrews 5:7-9.



By the way, it is identical to Gethsemane. It is what happened at Gethsemane. That is your first clue, same as Gethsemane. He is not crying for himself. He never cries for himself. He is omniscient God. So what makes him sad? What makes omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God sad to where he will weep? What causes the weeping from God? What causes that is the people who choose to reject him, the people who don't believe, the people who have some alternate salvation system that will lead them to death and ruin and condemnation, those who refuse the commandment to believe.

Can he save himself from death? Yeah, he says so, John 2:19. I can save myself from death, John 2:19. So what is the definition of death in there? Notice it is from death and not from dying. Again, apply the sacrificial system. It will solve for you. And that will provide the proper definitions of hurt and godly fear and learned obedience. Some people think that Christ had to learn things. Why... you have got to be kidding. He is omniscient God. What can he learn? He knows all things. That is the end, by the way, of the book of John where Peter finally has to say to him, "You know all things." And as soon as you understand that Christ knows all things, then you are what? You are wise. And in the service you can go. We give you a rifle. We actually put a barrel on it. Not we, him. And we give you ammunition so you won't shoot each other in the back. Now you are functional. But you must understand that Jesus Christ is God himself in the flesh and omniscient and knows all things. So he can't learn anything. He is infinite God, having been perfected—I have said it so many times. Having been perfected is a process in the sense that it is witnessed. Having been perfected means that he was inspected and declared to be perfect.

Did he know he was perfect? Yeah. Who didn't know? The people who were inspecting him. It is like the FDA. They stamp it. Their stamping it didn't make it anything. All it did was put the stamp on it, right? That is what having been perfected means. It doesn't mean he wasn't perfect for a while and that he became perfect. If you understand the sacrificial system and the high priest and Melchizedek and all that unravels and you are not fooled by people who use it to beat on the deity of Christ.

Anyway, don't be overwhelmed or intimidated by those who insist these verses are evidence that Jesus Christ is not the creator of all things, John 1:3. Again, more of the same. It comes from the him who works side. They don't know that they don't know that Hebrews 5:7-9 is unlocked by the high priest Melchizedek, salvation or sacrificial system context. And they don't care about it. They have an agenda. Ok. Where was I? I have got {?} on the board.

{?}

...who Melchizedek is and if I ask you all to write me a paper on Melchizedek, now what is the score? What is the grade? {?}

...You are eating Gerber's. You have got ground up baby... you can't feed yourself. Somebody has got to feed you. It is terrible, horrible. {?}

Because let me tell you, that is the condition right there. You are dull. {?}

Do you have belief towards God or do you have the opposite of that which is what? If you don't have belief towards God, in other words, if you don't have salvation that is a belief towards God, what do you have instead? What have you replaced it with? Belief towards yourself which is {?}

...two I want you think about. I am not going to write them on the board. I am going to have to start picking up the pace here, but I want you to know the ashes of the red heifer. Whenever you come in contact with a dead body in the Old Testament you are ... you need cleansing and the way you are cleansed is with the ashes of the red heifer. What is the red heifer? Where do we get the ashes? Where are they now, by the way? Where are the ashes of the red heifer now? They are used for cleansing the what? The priesthood. So the priesthood can do what? They can do their job. We have got to have those ashes of the red heifer. Those are very important. We get the ashes of the red heifer, we can start building a new temple. That will be a big deal. That will be an incredible piece of prophecy and they are looking very hard for the ashes of the red heifer. Most people think they are in the ark of the covenant. And if they are there, if we go home tomorrow and wake up in the morning and the nation of Israel has discovered the ark of the covenant or the ark of the testimony and they have the hand written manuscript of Moses, they have the budded rod of Aaron, they have the 10 Commandments written by the finger of God and they have the ashes of the red heifer, this world will change like that. Everything that you thought was important won't be important. It will happen in an instant. And the Jews will start building the temple just like they are prophesied to do and that will start a what? A war. And it won't matter where you bury me. It won't matter what your credit card debt is. It won't matter what your house payment is. It won't matter if you have got a car. It won't matter if you have got a business. It won't matter if you are taking guitar lessons. It won't matter. Nothing will be the same, except what? {?} and you have faith and belief in yourself.

Good luck with that yourself thing. And then the next one, the {?}

There is your list. Simple, huh? Notice how it always ends on Z, no matter what the list is, I always end on Z. Did you ever notice that? No why? I don't have a Y on my list.

{?} That will work I can use another one. That is why Anna beats meat the word for friends thing. I am so discouraged.

There is your list and it is often the case there is two views. I don't know if I have time to {?}. I won't. I won't touch it. I will just run it. There is two views as to what all that means. I have got two camps. They looked at the list and they said, "Ok. This is what it means." Another group looked at the list and said, "Nope, this I what I think it means. Two camps of scholarship, two prominent views of what it all means, two camps. And what do they do every chance they get? {?} church behavior. What do they do? They fight. Oh, I love it. And they sit back and they throw rocks and bottles at each other. And it is quite likely that all of you have heard one or both of the two prominent teaching

positions on Hebrews 5:10 through 6:6 and probably everyone listening to the internet as well and there are thousands of them, as you know. And I would say safely that 90 percent of every one will listen to this lecture is confident that their school or their position is correct and the other position is incorrect, probably 99 percent. And I ask you to raise hands on your two positions here in a minute, I would guarantee you that that is church would probably split right down the middle, probably how it is. And I would caution you, though, to be suspicious of your school or your position. Don't be so confident. Be a little wobbly legged here. You may not be standing so good.

No human expositor is infallible except... I am kidding. Glad you didn't answer that. No human expositor is infallible and many have an allegiance to a denomination. And that denomination has been told what to do think on that list. And they have an allegiance to it. And that allegiance will take precedence over scholarship, over reason. Why is that? What I mean to say is that it is very difficult for the denominations—and yes, I made that word up and I like it. It is my own word. {?} will steal it from me, but it is very light very difficult for the denominations and that is those whose loyalty interferes with their reason. It is very difficult for them to relinquish the security of their denomination or their organization to which they are a member. What do I mean it is very difficult to relinquish their security? You don't tow the line on Hebrews six, what happened to you? You don't get no money. No church is going to hire you. You ain't in our denomination no more if you don't believe what we tell you is truth on Hebrews six, 5:10 through 6:6. And poverty can be scary. Ask Laurie.

So the motivations of these folks must be brought into question, because this is one of those really cool places in Scripture where both sides, where both schools, where the two most popular, the two most common, the two most taught are both wrong. It is really cool. They are both wrong. I love it. I find that delightful in an eccentric sort of way.

What are the odds that each of these very large, very confident groups who have been fighting for hundreds of years could both be {?}, both be in error? What are the odds? Really good? In fact, the way it... the minute you start seeing them throwing bottles and rocks at each other and cursing each other, then, you know, chances are, they are both wrong. They have been fighting, like I said, hundreds of years. And they are equally incorrect. They are perfectly incorrect. And you must admit the irony of all of that is intriguing. How did it happen? What is the anatomy, the steps that lead to such a theological war where both sides are evenly misguided? And if find this is such a mess. I have just... I find it wonderful. I don't know why I do. It just explains why I ... were you weird before you came to Cliffside, I guess. Or did we make you weird. But I am fascinated by it, because it is such a display of human behavior. It makes our Christmas party look like a boy scout meeting.

Anyway, first it is obvious that neither side recognized how we began the lecture tonight. Neither side looked at Hebrews 5:10 through 6:6 and said that Matthew 12, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the underlayment. The nation of Israel rejecting the messiahship of Christ, neither side said that is the context of Hebrews six. Neither side even considered it. They also didn't see Romans four as an obstacle to their position or

John 3:16, for that matter. And no one noticed that Hebrews has five warnings. No one said, wait a minute. These are five warnings here. How does my position fit with the blasphemy of the Matthew 12, a demarcation line, the blasphemy. How does my position fit with the five warnings? This is the third warning. How does my position fit into the third warning? No one said that in these very, very old positions now. No one noticed that 5:10 through 6:6 is contained within the third warning. And you may call those mistakes and certainly you should expect trouble.

Ok, what are the two views? {?}

I have my way of saying it. To say one view says this is about saved people who then lose their salvation and become lost or what they will also say is fallen, ok? That is view number one. And the other view says, no, these people have never been saved. {?} and they are always going to be lost and always {?}. That is the two views of Hebrews six, 5:10 through 6:6. And these folks would come here all the time to talk to me, all the time. And I know one of them is listening to me on the internet right now and they would come here and argue with me. They like to do it because they know what I think here. I am actually pretty well known on this view.

They hold their position with such ferocity it is really a sight to behold and it is fascinating to me because I know that both sides are wrong. And I want to prove it to you really fast. It is real easy. It doesn't take much time.

One side, again, side number one, says that all of this is about saved people who fell away, who lost their salvation. And this becomes a very important {?}. Something is impossible. What is impossible? And impossible for who? The other group, the never saved and the lost fallen... Now it should be {?}

The half saved and the half saved and fallen view. Notice that I hold it to half saved position, ultimately isn't valid and has to give itself up into one of these other positions. It will mold back in. It is either going to have to assign itself to view number one or view number two. I don't consider the half saved a real view. But there are huge churches in this town that have the half saved view. Just on its face it ought to make you suspicious, shouldn't it? Should we really have a... I don't believe that it is possible to have a half saved. Well, if you have a half saved, what is the obvious question? Can you have a quarter saved? Can you have a seven eighths saved? Can you have a three sixteenths saved? {?} Can you have a quarter dead?

I mean, this is really ... I can take you to a church where they will stand up and scream that this is true. How can I deal with it? What do I do? I can't stop myself. What do I do? Yes, I win. And that offends. They don't invite me back. How can you have that, I ask them? There has got to be a, you know, a 564ths view or the thing, got to be, right? You can't just be half. Why did we pick half? It doesn't make sense.

Ok. There is no half such thing as a half saved view in spite of their aggressive emotional existence. View number one says that this passage teaches that if a person is

saved today and then a particular sin... what is the obvious question? What sin is it that is going to do this to you? But a particular sin or a series of accumulating sins. What is the obvious question now? What order are they in? And how many of them are there? If there is 10 in the right order then what will I want to know? What if you get two out of order? What if you get 11? What if you get nine? What if you have got nine and a half? That should do it, right?

I don't want to be disrespectful. Yes, I do. That is a fake don't want to be disrespectful. I absolutely want to be disrespectful. But they say that if you have a series, a particular sin, that {?} and if you have it, what happens to you? That is right, you are out of this church and you have lost your salvation, but give us your money anyway. But don't show up. Or as series of these accumulating sins that they have decided—notice they decide. And if that said person by utilizing the power of their free will then decides to cast off the blood of Christ, they have got to scrub it off. How? With Comet, Brillo pad. I hope that you use... scrub off, just for fun, don't... use a belt sander. That will teach you a very fast lesson, how ignorant you are trying to get the blood of Christ off of you. Sand blast yourself. That is... we have no doubt as to your ignorance. But they say that if you commit a sin or a series of sin or you decide that you are going to with your free will you are going to get rid of the blood of Christ, because what are you? You are powerful. You get rid of that blood of Christ. Then that said person can never, never, I say never, it is impossible, that person can never be saved again. That is view one, got it?

It is impossible. There is no hope. Impossible. A man can be saved once, become lost, or a woman, become lost and cannot repent. It is impossible to repent. Do not pass go. Do not collect 200 dollars. You have got a card straight to hell through fast. There is nothing you can do about it. That is view one.

A person who comes to the church, then, and says, "I was once saved, but I rejected my salvation and now I want to be resaved," what does the church have to say to him for that view? Go away. Yeah. There is no hope for you. It is impossible for you to be resaved.

I love that word resaved. Hopefully you see the problem, first. Reconcile this with God seeking to save the lost. God so loved the creation whoever will may come. God so loved the creation, so loved sinners that one that is struggling through his life he is going to shoot him in the head. Reconcile that with God's love. Try it. {?} necessary is just astonishing to defend view number one, which is why the half saved addendum {?}.

Whatever you want. They are not fully saved, fully saved. They are not really saved. They are not truly saved, they will insist. They were only this partial saved and that solved the problem for them. {?} it seemed that the Holy Spirit, seemed like those were saved people, but, no, they couldn't have been. All of that stuff didn't really mean what it says it means.

And so you say, "I had to get rid of that because of all the problem with it," which is overwhelming evidence that these Hebrews that are written to are Christians the way they are described. That had to be dealt with by the half saved people and off they went. But

they didn't see that they have the same difficulty, did they? A saved person or a half saved person, whatever, you have to end up saying that they cannot be what? They cannot be saved. If you are in the half saved category you cannot be saved. It is impossible. Really? It becomes impossible, then, to save who? The people who look like they are what? Half saved. And we call those people the what? The hypocrites. What are you? Everybody who is not a hypocrite raise your hand. Good. That was a trick question, you hypocrites. Hypocrites are impossible to save? Oops. Then we have got nobody saved.

And then the never saved position, the never savers, they just throw up their hands here in Hebrews six and they give up. These people to whom Paul are writing are not saved, they said, and they will never be saved and they cannot be saved. It is what? {?} That is what they say. There are people that it is impossible for God to save. Some things are just impossible for God. Is that your view? Matthew 19:20 says with God all things are possible. Is there such a thing that God would have somebody out there that it is impossible for him to save? Do you really think that? Reconcile that with the love of God for sinners. Reconcile the omnipotence. Reconcile 2 Peter 3:9 that calls him long suffering. He said he is long suffering. He wishes that none should perish, that all should come. Obviously the author of Hebrews is not talking about salvation. What is he talking about? {?}

If you think Hebrews 5:10 through 6:6 is about salvation, you are in trouble. You are going to be in that half saved, three quarters saved, seven eighths saved, fully saved, never saved, impossible to save nightmare that you cannot defend. That is against the character of God.

What he is doing, the Hebrews is, you know, I think that is Paul. He is telling the saved Christian Jews that it is impossible for them to do something. When you are saved, when you are a Christian there is something impossible for you to do. What do you suppose it is? It is impossible for you to lose your salvation. It is doing the exact opposite of what the two big camps are saying. It is impossible to do something. Next week I will explain that. What is impossible for Christians to do? Because it puts Christ to open shame if you think it is possible and it isn't possible. You can't put Christ to open shame. That is impossible. Know what is impossible. You will go through your life a lot easier.

Now, John, I have to turn this off because other people who come up here to say bad things about you... you push the button twice? Ok. It is possible that I got that right.

Let's rise and be dismissed.