

Sermon Notes

There Is No Reason to Turn Back! ***An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews*** #19 – “The Danger of Apostasy” – Hebrews 6:4-8

I. Introduction

A. In a book that is replete with sober warnings, we now come to the most sober of all. – The admonition “to advance.”

1. Note General Patton of World War II.

Note General Stonewall Jackson of the Civil War.

2. The call to constant personal spiritual advance.

3. There was a rebuke at the end of chapter five.

4. Andrew Murray – Dutch Reformed minister

B. The text – Hebrews 6:4-8

II. Exposition

A. Hebrews 6:4-6a

1. The writer is not describing his readers.

a. Note shift of the first and second person to third person.

He speaks of “us” and “you” before and after, but in the text before us he used the third person. “Those who have once been enlightened...” (Hebrews 6:4)

2. Not simply a hypothetical situation

3. The main views on how to interpret this text.

a. First: Real Christians who back slide.

1. Strong language used

2. John Wesley advocates this view.

3. A. W. Pink counters this viewpoint.

4. If this text means true believers can lose their salvation, then these texts are false – John 10:28-29; John 6:36-40; Ro. 8:38-39; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:12

b. Second: The text is describing a purely hypothetical situation.

1. This view seems to undermine the seriousness of the author.

c. Third: The language used describes participation in the sacramental life of the church.

1. “Tasting of the heavenly gift” – Lord’s Supper

2. “Sharing in the Holy Spirit” – Laying on of hands

3. “Have tasted the good Word of God – Preaching in the church

4. “Powers of the age to come” – signs and wonders that accompanied the early preaching

5. In brief, these people participated in the life of the church, but were never converted.

d. Fourth: The people described refer to individuals who were a part of Exodus in the Old Testament.

1. There are five major exhortations in the book of Hebrews. Each of the other four make explicit reference to the Old Testament.

2. It may be possible that the writer has the Old Testament account still on his mind as he writes chapter six. In this case the Old Testament is being used to show that people can be among the Covenant Community who still are not converted.

4. Pastor Don’s view is that either three or four is the correct view.

The concern is the same for both interpretations.

B. Hebrews 6:6

1. Do not underestimate the force of this statement.

2. Do not play church.

3. This is not a one time act of sin, but rather a state of mind.

a. Hebrews 10:26

4. It is what John wrote of in I John 2:19.

C. Hebrews 6:7-8

1. An illustration regarding hardness of heart – Matt. 7:18-20.

III. Points for Reflection

A. Do not play church!

B. A true believer will not apostatize.

C. What is the difference between eternal security and perseverance of the saints?