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HEBREWS

Hebrews 06:04-06
STAY CONNECTED

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Just as a recap from last week – the writer of Hebrews encouraged the Hebrew converts to move on from the “**elementary principles of Christ**” into a deeper knowledge and understanding of Jesus. Those elementary principles were:
1. **Repentance from dead works.**
 2. **Faith toward God**
 3. **The Doctrine of baptisms**
 4. **Laying on of hands**
 5. **Resurrection of the dead**
- B. Having moved on from these “elementary principles” which the writer compared to “baby’s milk” – we are given something with a little more “meat”.

II. HEBR 6:4-6 (NKJV) FOR [IT] [IS] IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED, AND HAVE TASTED THE HEAVENLY GIFT, AND HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 5 AND HAVE TASTED THE GOOD WORD OF GOD AND THE POWERS OF THE AGE TO COME, 6 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.

- A. What makes this a difficult passage is that it seems to contradict what some of us have been taught.
1. You see, as we make our Christian "pilgrimage" we attend different churches.
 2. Along the way, some of those churches were "Calvinist" in their teaching and others were "Arminianists".
 - a) We often come to conclusions as to what we believe without knowing exactly what these two men believed.
 - b) So, I thought it would be beneficial for us to take a brief look at the five points of both Calvinism and Arminianism this morning.
- B. The first letter of the five points of **Calvinism** spell **T.U.L.I.P.**
1. **Total Depravity** = ...the belief that man is dead in trespasses and sins and totally unable to save himself. Many Calvinists carry this a step further, claiming that man cannot even desire a relationship with God apart from His working in their hearts. In fact, it is claimed that God must regenerate a person before they can even desire to come to Christ.

- a) **Gene 2:17 (NKJV)** "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
 - b) **Roma 3:23 (NKJV)** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - c) **John 6:44 (NKJV)** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
2. **Unconditional election** = ...in eternity past God chose or elected certain people to obtain salvation. Some Calvinists (although not all) carry this belief further and teach what is referred to as "double election", or "reprobation", the teaching that God, in eternity past, selected some people to go to heaven and others to go to hell, and there is nothing anyone can do to change God's election; i.e., if you are elected for heaven: you'll go to heaven regardless of what you do, and if you're elected for hell, there is no possibility of your ever being saved. John Calvin, himself - taught this, but called it a "terrible doctrine".
- a) **Roma 8:29 (NKJV)** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to] [be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
3. **Limited atonement** = ...Jesus did not die for the sins of the entire world, but that He instead only died for those that He elected to go to heaven. The argument is that Christ's work on the Cross is for all for whom He died (the elect), that He could not have shed His blood for those who are lost. Some Calvinists have gone to great lengths to explain away limited atonement, saying, for example, that Jesus died for all, but does not pray for all, or that His death theoretically could save everyone, but is effective only for the elect. The end result is the same in each case - the belief that Jesus only died effectively for *some* people!
4. **Irresistible grace** = ...God will draw to Himself those whom He elected regardless of their rebellion against Him. It is the belief that the "chosen" man cannot resist the drawing of God to Himself.
5. **Perseverance of the saints** = ...eternal security, is the doctrine that often attracts people to Calvinism because it is the belief that a true born again Christian cannot lose or give up his salvation because salvation is entirely God's work, not man's.
- a) **Ephe 2:8-9 (NKJV)** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it] [is] the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 - b) **John 10:27-29 (NKJV)** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father's hand.

C. And here are the 5 points of **Arminianism**.

- 1. **Election based on knowledge** = ...the belief that God chose those who would be saved in eternity past based on His foreknowledge of those who would

respond to and receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Arminianism rejects the concept that God elected anyone for hell.

- a) **Roma 8:29-30 (NKJV)** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to] [be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
2. **Unlimited atonement** = ...is the belief that Jesus died on the Cross for all people, that His blood is sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of every man, woman, and child who has ever lived. Thus, all mankind is savable.
 - a) **John 3:16-18 (NKJV)** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
3. **Natural inability** = ...is the teaching that man cannot save Himself, but that the Holy Spirit must effect the new birth in him. Strict Arminians do not believe that man is totally depraved and condemned as a result of Adam's sin.
4. **Prevenient grace** = ...is the Arminian belief that the preparatory work of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to respond to the Gospel and to cooperate with God in the working out of that person's salvation.
 - a) **John 6:44 (NKJV)** "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
5. **Conditional perseverance** = ...is the belief that man can choose to reject God, and therefore lose his salvation, even after he has been born again. Rather than the "once saved always saved" doctrine of the Calvinists, the Arminianist believes that you must abide in Christ to be saved, and that you can choose to walk away from God. Arminius himself, and his early followers, stated that they were unsure of this doctrine and that it required further Biblical study. Later Arminians, however, accepted it.
 - a) **Matt 24:13 (NKJV)** "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.
 - b) And of course the scriptures before us this morning becomes part of the Arminian argument.
 - (1) In case you are wondering, Calvary Chapel doesn't agree with all points of either one of these doctrines.
 - (2) So let's take a look a try to understand what the writer of Hebrews is saying.

D. **Hebr 6:4-6 (NKJV)** For [it] [is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** 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.

1. I don't think we can misinterpret the word "impossible"!
2. And if we take out all the clarifiers in between, we come up with this:

- a) [it] [is] impossible if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance.
 - (1) The phrase "fall away" = 3895 parapipto par-ap-ip'-to} = *to slip aside, to deviate from the right path, turn aside, wander - to error - to fall away (from the true faith): from worship of Jehovah.*
 - (2) So, the end result seems pretty clear, so let's take a look at the clarifiers.
- 3. ...those who were once **enlightened**
 - a) 5461 photizo fo-tid'-zo} = Where we get our word "photo" or photograph.
 - b) So, to some degree these people have gone from darkness to light!
 - c) They at least understand Who and what Jesus is all about!
- 4. ...have **tasted the heavenly gift**
 - a) There are no trick words here. They all mean just what they say.
- 5. ...**have become partakers of the Holy Spirit**
 - a) The word "**partakers**" here means "**to partner**", so the people we are talking about here have "partnered" up with the Holy Spirit.
- 6. ...**have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come**
 - a) These folks have also "digested" the word of God and understood it.
 - b) They have also been partakers in the "dunamis" (power) of God.
- 7. ...**[it] [is] impossible if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance.**
 - a) Why, they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put [Him] to an open shame.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Were these people even "saved"? Are they people that we today - would call "born-again"?
 - 1. Is it possible to get that close to the Lord and not come to a saving faith in Him?
 - a) According to **Matt 7:21-23** YES! "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**"
 - 2. Let me give you this reassurance – just fall in love with Jesus and stay close to Him and this will NEVER be a concern for you.