

# Hebrews Lesson 25

## Chapter 6

28 January 2025

Hebrews 6 often causes debate and confusion among those who ignore the context.

### The immediate context:

“This will **WE** do if God permit...” (vs 3)

“It is impossible for **THOSE**...” (vs 4)

“If **THEY** shall fall away...to renew **THEM** to repentance.” (vs 6)

“But beloved, we are persuaded better things of **YOU**.” (vs 9).

- Clearly, two groups of people are being discussed.

### The broader context:

The letter to the Hebrews is written to a nation of people containing both saved and lost people.

**Vs 1-3** This passage begins with “**Therefore**...” in light of what was discussed in chapter 5, don’t go back, don’t stand still on the bare foundation, but go on to perfection.

**Vs 4-9** “**For it is impossible for those**...” here the writer shifts from talking about “**we**” (vs 3)(saved people) to a group called “**those**” (unsaved people).

- Verses 4-6 are often used to teach that someone who has been saved and born-again can lose their salvation by not continuing to do good works.
  - Church of God and Pentecostal churches teach that *you need to get saved again if you fall away*.
    - Verse 4 says it’s impossible.
  - Other false teachings: “*when a Christian falls away, they’re still saved, but can never be restored to fellowship or participate in the Christian life.*”
    - No scripture supports this interpretation.
    - Contrariwise, the scriptures instruct us to restore fallen brethren (Gal. 6:1, 2 Cor. 2:7).
  - A third rendering of this passage: *Tribulation Jews who take the mark of the Beast can never be saved*.
    - Hebrews isn’t written to Tribulation Jews instructing them to keep the Law.
      - Hebrews tells the Jews that Jesus is better than the Law, don’t go back to it.

### **Vs 1** “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ...”

- These are the “**first principles of the oracles of God**” in Hebrews 5:12.
  - This includes “**the foundation:**” “**Repentance from dead works, and faith toward God.**”
    - The apostle Paul taught “**Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**” (Acts 20:21). This was preached to Jews and to Gentiles.
    - Repentance from dead works must come first.
      - Your faith must be completely invested in Jesus Christ and nothing else.

### **VS 2** The foundation includes:

- “**The doctrine of baptisms**” (plural).
  - This is an outward testimony of your faith in Christ.
  - In the New Testament, only saved people got baptized.
- “**Laying on of hands.**”
- “**And of resurrection of the dead.**”

- “**And of eternal judgment.**”
- These are “**first principles.**”
  - The instruction to leave the first principles does not mean that you should abandon them.
    - It means you should stand upon them as your foundation and go on from there.

### These foundational doctrines were part of Jewish history:

- “**Repentance from dead works.**” Cain needed to repent of his dead works (the fruit of the ground).
- “**And faith toward GOD.**” This has been a requirement since Adam in the garden.
- “**The doctrine of baptisms.**” The Jews had many prescribed washings to perform.
- “**The laying on of hands.**” Utilized many times in the Jew’s sacrificial system.
- “**The resurrection of the dead.**” Resurrection was not only a belief of the Jews, but they also witnessed several resurrections.
  - Abraham accounted that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead (Heb 11:9).
- “**Eternal judgment**” was preached and proclaimed throughout Hebrew history.

### BAPTISMS

- **Heb 9:8-9**, the Jews had “**divers washings...imposed on them.**”
  - **Mark 7:1-5** shows that the religious leaders were still influenced by these washings.
  - Jews performed these washings as a matter of sanctification, maintaining moral purity. They believed that they would be defiled if they didn’t wash their plates, cups, hands, etc.
- **Numbers 19:1-10**, in the ceremony of the red heifer, the Jews learned that the “water of separation was a purification for sin” (vs 9). Many washings took place.
- **Lev 8:4-7**, Aaron and the entire priesthood were washed with water.
- **John’s baptism:** John didn’t have to explain the purpose of baptism to the Jews. They understood that it had a sanctifying, dedicating purpose.
- **Acts 2:38**, the Jews repented and were baptized AFTER they heard and received the word concerning Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection and exercised faith toward God.
- **Heb 6:2**, the Jews were prescribed two things: John’s baptism and Christian baptism. Baptisms (PL).
  - John’s baptism was part of the “first principles of the oracles of God” (5:12).
    - This repentance and baptism prepared the way for Messiah (**Jn 1:31, Matt 3:3-11**)
  - Jesus’ disciples also baptized those who repented to demonstrate their faith.
  - **Luke 7:29-30**, those who repented received John’s baptism, showing their faith.

### “Go on to perfection”

- **Acts 18:24-28**, Apollos was a man who believed in God, believed John’s baptism, believed the scriptures. But his knowledge was incomplete. He didn’t know about Jesus Christ.
  - When he learned the gospel, his knowledge was perfected. He didn’t abandon the solid foundation that he already had, but he built upon it, receiving Christ as his Savior.
- **Acts 19:1-5**, here are some believers (they believed biblical foundational principles concerning the Messiah) but they had not learned that Jesus was the Messiah. After they learned this, they were baptized in His name.
- **Hebrews 6:1-6**, the Hebrews had the foundation, as taught by John. When they learned that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah, some believed (Apollos, Ephesians), but many Hebrews turned back because they didn’t want Christ.
  - Because with the foundation included in John’s baptism, they could still cling to their law, their temple, and the priesthood.
  - With Jesus, you’ve got to repent of those “**dead works**” (vs 1) and go on to perfection.