### "4 For it is impossible:

- for those who were once enlightened
- If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance
- for those who have tasted the heavenly gift
- If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance
- were made partakers of the Holy Ghost
- have tasted the good word of God
- and the powers of the world to come,

Why is it impossible to renew them again unto repentance?

- they crucify to <u>themselves</u> the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."
  - As long as a person is (present tense) crucifying to themselves the Son of God afresh, it
    is impossible to bring them to a place of repentance.
    - To crucify Jesus to yourself afresh is to have the same heart condition and response of those who rejected Him and nailed Him to the cross.
      - You can't help a person who is refusing Jesus Christ.

#### The Hebrews:

- Were once enlightened (vs 4). Jesus walked among them and proved that He was God.
- **Tasted of the heavenly gift** (vs 4). Jesus performed many miracles of healing, feeding, and cleansing, etc.
- Were made partakers of the Holy Ghost (vs 4). The Holy Ghost revealed truths to them (Mt. 16:17), drew them to Christ (Jn 12:32), and convicted them in their conscience (Jn 8:9).
- Tasted the good word of God (vs 5). Sermon on the Mount, sermons in the synagogues, in the streets, in the Sea of Galilee.
- **Tasted...the powers of the world to come** (vs 5). Jesus demonstrated His power to control devils and bind the strong man (Mk 3:27).

#### The Hebrews' Response:

- Some said, "What shall we Do?" (Acts 2:37), and they believed and were saved.
  - o These "receiveth blessing from God" (vs 7). This is the "good ground" of Matthew 13.
- Some mocked and ridiculed and would not believe (Acts 2:13)
  - o It is impossible to reason with somebody who is presently rejecting Christ.
  - o It is possible for them to be saved later on if they repent and stop rejecting Christ.
  - o These are "nigh unto cursing" (vs 8). This is the "stony ground" of Matthew 13.
    - "Nigh" means near. They aren't cursed yet.
    - Many of us had a taste of all these things as children, but we didn't get saved until we were adults. We were nigh unto cursing until we repented.

## Can a believer fall away and never come back?

**Galatians 5:1-4** says when a believer gets entangled with a system of works, Christ does not profit them and "is become of no effect unto you."

• You have fallen from grace because you're trusting your works.

- o This doesn't mean you lost your salvation.
- o It means while you are trusting your works, Christ can no longer help you.
- If you repent and trust Christ alone, you can receive all the blessings that accompany your salvation.
  - o Galatians 6:1 says you can be restored.

**Saul of Tarsus** is a prime example of a man who was impossible to renew unto repentance.

- He knew God, feared God, worshipped God, and served God.
- He read the word of God, taught the word of God, and lived for God.
- He heard the gospel from Stephen and rejected Jesus Christ.
  - o As long as he was in that condition of heart, it was impossible to help him.
- He had a change of heart on the road to Damascus and the Lord saved him.

# "they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

- If Jesus died on the cross, but did not die to save us from our sins, his death was the most shameful death a man could suffer.
- If you reject Him, His death on the cross means nothing to you but a shameful death.
- If you receive Him, His death is remembered with great honor and glory in the Lord's Supper.