**Hebrews: The Supremacy of the Son of God pt. 35**

**January 26, 2025 || Title: Two Kinds of Land**

**OUTLINE: Introduction:**

* Hebrews 6:4-6 – a “pastoral admonishment” addressing apostasy.
* 2LC 1.9 – “the infallible rule of the interpretation of the Scriptures is the Scripture itself.”

**Hebrews 6:7–8**

[7] For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. [8] But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. (ESV)

**Theological Groundwork:**

* God is sovereign.
	+ Over all things and yes, salvation.
* Man is responsible.
	+ For every thought, word, and deed.
* Divine Concurrence: Two or more parties can act in the same events to produce a given outcome without all parties having the same intent.
	+ Results in no conflict or contradiction.
	+ Example of Joseph & Jesus.
	+ Hebrews 6:1&3
	+ Augustine – “give what You command, and command what You will.”
* Hebrews 6:4-6 – summed up – “don’t fall away.”
	+ If we do, we alone are to blame. If we don’t, we must praise and thank God.

**The Parable:**

* Not meant to teach us doctrines focusing on God’s sovereignty, but our responsibility.
	+ What field am I, the first or the second?

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**The Parable:**

* Not meant to teach us doctrines focusing on God’s sovereignty, but our responsibility.
	+ What field am I, the first or the second?
* First land is the “good” land – you don’t want to be the second land.
	+ In a sense – it is one land – noting that both types are in the visible church.
* The parable is explaining the previous warning.
* Genesis 1, 3 & Isaiah 5
* Fruitfulness vs. thorns and thistles.
	+ Blessing vs. cursing.
* The rain = the Word of God and all it’s blessings that accompany it.
* 4-fold blessing in 6:4-6 is described by the rain of verse 7.
* The first land is like the 4th soil in Jesus’ parables of the soils.
* The second land is like the 2nd and 3rd soils of Jesus’ parables of the soil.
* First land: useful and blessed.
	+ Heidelberg Catechism answer 64: No it is impossible for those grafted into Christ through true faith to not produce fruits of gratitude.”
	+ Blessed: covenantal riches from God.
* Second land: rejected and burned.
	+ “Near a curse” – designed to make you fear and repent.
	+ The lesson of the fig tree (Luke 13:6-9; Matthew 21:19)
	+ Burned: hellfire and damnation.
* Christianity is discriminatory – there are two kinds of people ultimately.

**The Parable’s Intent: Thinking through Our Response to it:**

* Do we have fruit? (not a specific amount of fruit)
* Are we guilty of “checklist Christianity?”
* The passage demands from us honest self-evaluation.
	+ Do you ever do that?
* If your life is thorn’s and thistles – repent today.
* Pray for a cultivated heart
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