**Hebrews: The Supremacy of the Son of God pt. 34**

**January 12, 2025 || Title: An Impossible Situation**

**OUTLINE: Introduction:**

* Agreed upon difficulty of the text.

**Hebrews 6:4–6**

[4] For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, [5] and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, [6] and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. (ESV)

* This warning is not out of left field (2:1,3; 3:15; 5:11; 6:1)
* Those who believe one can lose their salvation, appeal to this text.
* Those who affirm eternal security must still deal with the text.
  + Can’t take the teeth out of this warning passage.
* The intention of warning signs for drivers.
  + Not a test, and not to create impenetrable doubt.
  + A means of safe travel.
  + Warnings in the Bible do a similar thing.
* Three theological solutions to warning passages.
  + No eternal security
  + Minimize or soften the warning
  + Affirm eternal security, and point out that apostates were never actually saved in the first place.
* Restored to repentance is impossible because Christ is being re-crucified and brought to open contempt.
* Verses 4-6 employ third person pronouns

**THE EXPERIENCE OF THOSE WHO FALL AWAY**

* Enlightenment.
  + Understanding of the gospel – profess to believe it even.
  + John 1:9; Hebrews 10
* Tasted the heavenly gift.
  + To experience something.
  + The Holy Spirit Himself, or salvation.

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* Shared in the Holy Spirit.
  + Participation in the operations and benefits of the Spirit.
  + Emphasis on the word “shared” is with an external operation. -Matthew 7:22
* Tasted the Goodness of the word of God.
  + Experienced some of the power of the preached word.
  + Sat under the true and faithful preaching of God’s word.
* Tasted the powers of the age to come.
  + Already/not yet tension. The “already” part.

**FALLING AWAY**

* Apostasy – a deliberate and willful rejection of Christ and what one used to confess.
* Describes one who seemed serious about the faith for a time.
* Impossible to be restored to repentance because they continue in 2 things – crucifying Christ to their harm and bringing Him contempt.
  + They do so with full understanding of their rejection.
  + Those outside of the church celebrate their rejection of Christ, bringing upon Him contempt.

**ATTEMPTS TO SOFTEN THE TEXT**

* Only a hypothetical warning is a useless warning.
* Change the meaning of words – the Apostle is just being hyperbolic.
* Possible for God

**APPLICATION**

* Question – does this describe true believers?
  + The text isn’t a theological dissertation but a pastoral admonishment.
  + Real experiences don’t always result in real salvation.
    - Judas, Simon the magician, the middle soils.
    - 1 John 2:19 – “they went out from us......”
* Meant to persevere the elect.
* Experience and Scripture both testify to God bringing back people who seem to fall away for a time.
* Heed the warning and continue to look to Christ.
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