

Just a Closer Walk with Him

Hebrews 5.11-6.12

September 8th, 2019

Introduction:

The problem the author of Hebrews is addressing is the growing apostasy amongst Jewish believers

The passage before us today is the third of **five** warning passages and is an exceedingly difficult passage because it seems to undermine the assurance of salvation

Main Points: We can experience a closer walk with God by cultivating...

1. Understanding - 5.11-6.3

- a. They were to move on from the basics of the faith to the more profound truths
- b. The main exhortation here is to grow up. There is a parallel drawn here between the physical life and the spiritual life. Faith needs to be intentionally nurtured in order to grow
 - i. 1Corinthians 3.1-4
- c. The more you understand who God is and what it took to bring you into relationship with him, the more you love him and draw close to him

2. Fear - 6.4-8

- a. One of the strongest warnings in Scripture about being casual about faith
- b. John 15 - the vine and the branches
 - i. Matthew 10.33 -- but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

c. The issue is faith

- i. Our salvation was not earned, it's a gift. Treat it with respect.
 1. Ephesians 1.13-14; 2.8-10
 2. John 10.28-29
 3. Romans 8.38-39
 4. Psalm 139.1-16 *v.7
 5. Philippians 1.6
 6. The Prodigal Son - Luke 15
 7. Peter's denial and reinstatement

- d. Don't look for salvation elsewhere. Putting your faith in anyone or anything other than Jesus will be disastrous

3. Action - 6.9-12

- a. Moves from exhortation to encouragement
 - i. 1Timothy 4.7-8; 1Corinthians 9.24
- b. Don't stop exercising your faith
 - i. Keep praying
 - ii. Stay in the word
 - iii. Stay connected to Christian community
 - iv. Serve somewhere
 - v. Share your faith
 - vi. Learn something
 - vii. Set your mind on things above

Conclusion:

Our desire as Christians is to continually walk closer and closer with God

We can do this by

As we draw nearer to God, he will draw nearer to us, and we will experience the joy that it is to have just a closer walk with him.

Amen.