

**Lecture 7 – Hebrews 5-6: Apostasy & Perseverance**

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16*

**Key Terms**

High priest, spiritual immaturity, apostasy

**Lecture Objectives**

- List and describe major features of Christ’s priesthood
- Consider the warning of Hebrews against spiritual immaturity and identify dangers of not heeding those warnings
- Explore the application of the preacher’s warning against spiritual immaturity to our own life

**Preliminary Questions**

- One of your church friends confides in you that after reading Hebrews 6 he thinks he may be in danger of apostatizing. How would you help him work through this concern?

**Hebrews 5-6: Apostasy & Perseverance**

I. Context: Transition from Warning to Comfort (4:16-18)

- A. Jesus our merciful and faithful high priest
- B. Further reflection on Jesus

II. Jesus our High Priest

- A. Structure (Lane 77 – in some editions, p.111), note the chiasmic nature of structure

- B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Traits of human priests
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Traits of Jesus as priest
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Exposition of Christ's priesthood (5:1-10)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

III. Interlude: Warning Against Spiritual Immaturity

- A. Context in structure and purpose of Hebrews
- B. Three types of listener (5:11-14)
  - 1. Ignorant sin
  - 2. Lethargic sin
  - 3. Deliberate sin

C. The desire to proceed

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

D. Those who commit apostasy (6:4-6)

- 1. Indefinite reference
- 2. Structure: It is impossible + 5 fold description

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who cannot be restored?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

E. Views of Hebrews 6

- 1. Unpardonable sins: (Rigorist View)
- 2. Soften the language:
- 3. Pastoral reading:
- 4. Language of appearance:
- 5. Instrumental reading:

F. Theological comments

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

G. Applications to pastoral ministry

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Question/Answer

- Augustine’s distinction between the visible and invisible church, is it related?
- What is the difference between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> view? One is not a Christian period. One appears to be Christian but is not.
- If it is impossible, then why would the preacher make the warning?
- Is this talking about a setback that is so severe?