

---

# The Tragedy of Rejecting Full Revelation

## Part 2

Hebrews 6:1-8

---

*“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.*

*4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

*7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”*

**INTRODUCTION:**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

*“Tiger Woods was put on the spot by an evangelical guest of Nike on October 9, 2006, during an exclusive golf outing for top business and entertainment executives.*

*That day, 30 people gathered at the Trump golf course in Los Angeles for the 2006 "Tee It up with Tiger Woods" event, which included a private golf session and lunch with the living legend. During the lunch, there was a question-and-answer session with Woods. Most people asked about their swings or golf questions.*

*However, one guest of Nike stood up and asked two questions: "Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? And if not, prayerfully, would you?" A source present at the lunch later said: "You could have heard a pin drop. People were mortified. But Tiger was as unflappable as he is on the golf course."*

*Tiger said: "My father was a Christian—of course Christianity was part of my life. But my mother is Asian, and Buddhism was also part of my childhood. **So I practice both faiths respectfully.**"*

- **Tiger Woods’ statement somewhat reflects the same attitude that the Hebrews had toward Jesus Christ**
  - **They had been drawn so close to the Gospel—Jesus Christ**
  - **And yet they still wanted to hang on to their Judaism**
  - **Tiger Woods may have convinced himself that blending the 2 faiths equally was no**

problem—but that’s not what Paul was saying to the Hebrews

- They needed to make a decision—and make it quickly before their time ran out

**CIT: What Does Moving Forward in Perfection Look Like?**

**HI: How Does a Person Really Get Saved?**

**I. They Leave the Old and Cleave to the New (vs. 1-3)—**

*“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.”*

**A. Leaving For Good—***“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection”*

### 1. The Importance of Leaving

- a. The Hebrews that Paul is addressing have been incredibly exposed to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—and yet were still holding on to their Jewish faith
- b. They had never truly come to salvation in Christ—because they were STILL HOLDING onto the OLD COVENANT

- i. The Laws
- ii. The Ceremony
- iii. The Sacrificial system
- iv. The Priesthood

c. They were holding on—while saying “NO” to Christ

- i. It wasn’t that they were aggressively opposed to Christ
- ii. They just didn’t want to let go of the OLD
- iii. They were fearful—of what may happen if they do

2. Paul told them—that if they were going to be saved, they **MUST leave the Old Covenant** (principles of the doctrine of Christ)—and go on to perfection (spiritual maturity—salvation)

- a. Salvation ALWAYS involves a LEAVING and CLEAVING action
- b. You must leave the old and embrace the new

**Matthew 16:24-26—***“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**”*

**NOTE:** If you come to Jesus—still holding tightly to the Old Life then you won't be saved. You CAN'T be saved if you are refusing to let go of the Old.

That's what Paul was telling these Jews.

## **B. The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ**

**NOTE:** These are all Jewish concepts that Paul is speaking of. They are to leave these old things—not continue to lay an old foundation—and move on to Christ.

### **1. Repentance From Dead Works**

**a.** It was a way of saying that they were turning from works that brought death

**i.** Sin brings death

**ii.** That concept was taught in the OT

- Over and over God laid out the penalty for breaking the covenant of God—Death

**Ezekiel 18:4**—“*the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*”

- And over and over we see examples of that very thing being played out in the Old Testament

- Where people sinned against the Old Covenant—and faced the penalty of it

- Israel was continually warned on not turning from the Old Covenant and bringing upon themselves the curse of the Law

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**—“*See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; 16 in that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.*”

**NOTE:** This must have been some of the hang-up that these Hebrews had with the gospel message. If we embrace this New Covenant that has been given to us through Jesus Christ will we bring the curse of the Old Covenant upon us?

Paul's point is that you will not bring that curse on you for embracing Jesus as the Messiah.

**b.** Repentance from dead works is perfected in the New Covenant (in Christ)

**Hebrews 9:13-14**—“*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*”

**i.** The Old Covenant was shadow of the New Covenant

- Repentance in the Old Covenant pointed to a better Repentance in the New Covenant
- To be exposed to the New Covenant and continue holding on to the Old was inexcusable

**ii.** Old Covenant Repentance was not enough to save a person

- Every time you see NT repentance spoken of—it always points the person to Jesus Christ

**Acts 20:21**—“*testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

**John 14:6**—“*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

- For a Jew to continue to hold on to Old Testament repentance while rejecting Jesus Christ—made their repentance null and void

## 2. Faith Toward God

**a.** This next point falls in line with the previous one—Repentance and Faith  
**b.** The Old Covenant continually pointed Israel to repent of their sin and turn to the God of the Covenant in Faith

**i.** In the mind of the Jew—to turn to any other God in faith was blasphemy

- They were to turn only to the God of the Covenant

**ii.** But the God of the Old Covenant is the God of the New Covenant

- Jesus is God come in the flesh
- That is why you see the apostles pointing both Jews and Gentiles to have faith in Jesus Christ

**Acts 2:38**—“*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”

**Acts 11:17**—“*Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ ; what was I, that I could withstand God?*

*18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*”

**c.** It’s not enough to have both repentance and faith in the God of the Old Covenant—if you are rejecting the Christ of the New Covenant

**Acts 4:12**—“*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*”

### 3. The Doctrine of Baptisms

**a.** This is NOT speaking of Christian baptism

**b.** It is speaking of **Jewish washings**

**i.** The Jews were big into their ceremonial washings

**ii.** There was this continual concern about being ceremonially clean

- Not touching certain things that would temporarily defile a person
- Not eating certain foods that were unclean
- And if they were ever “unclean” they were forced to go through a prescribed process to be made clean
- Making sure they were ceremonially clean before the Sabbath days—the Holy Days—the Festivals

**iii.** It must have been a nightmare to continually stay up on the cleansings

**iv.** That was the Jewish way of life

- They had got so used to practicing it—that they DID NOT RECOGNIZE what it was pointing them to
- That was the cleansing that the Messiah would bring

**Ezekiel 36:24-27**—“*For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*

*25 Then will I sprinkle **clean water upon you**, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”*

**QUESTION: What do you think God is talking about to the Jews?**

- **He’s pointing them to what the Messiah would do when He would come**
- **The Messiah would cleanse them from the inside out**
  - **Removing all their filthiness**
  - **All their idols**
  - **Giving them a new heart**
  - **Putting in them a desire to walk in obedience to Him**

**Titus 3:5-6**—“*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour”*

**c.** To hold on to all the ceremonial washings of the Old Covenant—while rejecting Jesus Christ—was to not be washed at all

#### **4. Laying on of Hands**

**a.** This was a reference to the sacrificial system of Israel

**i.** Every time they were to offer a sacrifice at the temple, they were to lay their hands on the animal and confess their sins upon it

**ii.** It was a way of identifying with the animal

- They were identifying with the sinlessness of the animal
- While placing their sins upon that animal

**iii.** Those sacrifices could never make a person right with God

**Hebrews 10:4**—“*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”*

**iv.** They were only a picture of the One who could—Jesus Christ

**b.** To continue to hold on to the Old Covenant sacrifices—while rejecting Christ—the greater sacrifice—was foolish

**5. & 6.** Resurrection From the Dead (reward)  
Eternal Judgment (punishment)

**a.** The Jews had very little writings and knowledge about the afterlife (Olam ha bah)

**i.** They believed that there was some kind of reward for the righteous and there was some kind of punishment for the unrighteous

**ii.** But they were very vague on what those were

**b.** Many of them believed that only Jewish people would have any chance of reward (resurrection)—and all those outside of Judaism would be eternally punished by God

**c.** The Old Covenant left everything vague and unclear

**d.** The New Covenant unveiled it all

**i.** We understand about the resurrection

**ii.** We understand about the judgment to come

**iii.** We understanding who will be rewarded and who will be punished

**NOTE:** Paul is saying to the Jews—*“You need to let go of the types, the shadows, the pictures, and the ignorance of the Old Covenant and move on to the perfection, the completion, the cleansing, the wisdom that comes through the New Covenant—Christ.”*

**NOTE:** At this point in the text, Paul says something that should catch our attention.

**C. By God’s Permission—***“And this will we do, if God permit”*

**1.** And THIS we will do

**a.** “THIS” refers to what Paul has been saying to his Jewish readers

**i.** That they are to LET GO of the OLD

**ii.** And they are to CLING to the NEW

**iii.** In other words, *they are to stop playing around about being saved*

b. Paul wants his readers to be saved

**NOTE:** That should be the desire that every believer should have for non-believers—that they should be saved. And it should be the desire of every lost person, who recognizes that they are lost—to be saved.

BUT, Paul says,... ***this will we do, if God permit***

## 2. A Possible Hindrance to Their Salvation

a. God may or may not allow them to be saved

- i. No one is saved apart from God
- ii. God has to convict a person, He has to awaken that person to their need, He has to show them that they are lost, He has to convince of Christ
- iii. He is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our Faith

### QUESTION:

Someone might ask—***“Is Paul saying that God doesn’t want some people to be saved?”***

**NO!**—That’s not at all what Paul is saying

**2 Peter 3:9**—God is *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

***“Then why is Paul hinting at the fact that God may prevent some of these Jews from being saved?”***

### The Answer is Found in vs. 4-8

- **They didn’t take God’s message seriously**
  - They neglected to respond to the gospel
  - They hardened their heart to the gospel
  - They have closed their ears to the gospel
  - And now God is beginning to strip away the truth of the Gospel from their hearts—so that they can’t believe
  
- **Paul is saying—not that God doesn’t want people to be saved, but that He will not ALWAYS extend the offer of salvation to those who reject it**

*“And this will we do, if God permit”*

**II. They Take the Warning of God’s Impending Judgment Seriously (vs. 4-8)**—*“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned”*

## A. What's Impossible With God

### 1. To Be Renewed to Repentance If...

**NOTE:** Being renewed to repentance means being brought to the place of repentance all over again.

The place of repentance is that place where the unsaved person is **most convinced of his sinfulness**, of his **need to be saved**, of **Jesus Christ** being God's sacrifice for sin. It is the place where the unsaved is the most ready to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

Paul says that there is an **unconditional impossibility** that God holds on those who have been brought to such a place of conviction and have fallen away from it. God will never let them return to that place of fresh repentance and thus keep them from ever being saved.

**NOTE:** Paul gives his reader a list of how exposed they have been to the Gospel.

#### a. Once Enlightened

- i. It means: "*to have come to a perception of the truth intellectually*"
- ii. "*To have the knowledge of the gospel imparted to you*"

**NOTE:** Every time a person sits through a church service and listens to a preacher teach them of the gospel—they are being enlightened to the truth.

Maybe they don't get it completely—but if they attend long enough, they'll eventually be completely exposed to the gospel:

- Why a person needs to be saved
- How a person is saved
- Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection

iii. These Jews had been incredibly enlightened to the truth of the gospel (**Paul shows us**)

#### b. Tasted of the Heavenly Gift

i. The Heavenly Gift—is referring to salvation

**John 4:10**—"*Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*"

**Vs. 13-14**—"*Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*"

- It is referring to the gift of everlasting life

**Romans 6:23**—“*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

**ii.** Paul says that they tasted of God’s gift of salvation

- They’ve had an opportunity to experience a foretaste of what it means to be saved
- But tasting is not swallowing
  - They tasted, but because they have neglected—they spit it out
  - They didn’t take it in and make it part of them

**NOTE:** It is the Holy Spirit that God uses to open the heart and mind of the unbeliever to the reality of salvation. The Holy Spirit had been so active in their hearts, that it could be said that they literally tasted the gift of God. But instead of taking it in—they refused it.

**c.** Made Partakers of the Holy Ghost

**i.** The word “*Partakers*” refers to sharing or association with

**ii.** Paul is saying that these Hebrews have shared in or been in **close association with the working of the Holy Ghost**

- They were around when the Spirit of God was working so powerfully among the people
- They shared in the experiences of the Holy Ghost

**Hebrews 2:3-4**—“*how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, **both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?***”

- They were privileged to experience the workings of the Holy Ghost in a way that most people will NEVER experience in their life time
- They were partakers of His workings—they were in close association with them
  - They saw the miracles
  - They experienced the work of God in their own Hearts

- Yet they **had NOT TRULY BELIEVED**

**d. Tasted of the Good Word of God**

**i.** No doubt the Hebrews had been exposed to some of the greatest expositional preaching of the OT Scriptures

- The preachers that preached to them were none other than the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ
- They opened up to these people the Scriptures in a way that no one had before—and probably ever would again

- Pointing out the types and shadows of the OT
- Pointing to the prophecies concerning Christ

**ii.** Yet, with all that preaching and teaching of the Word of God—they still chose not to believe

**e. Tasted of the Powers of the World to Come**

- i.** They saw how God radically changed lives of people
- ii.** They saw the miraculous power of God—that is really reserved for an age yet to come
- iii.** Yet in all that they experienced—they still chose **NOT TO BELIEVE**

**2. Those Who Apostate From Such Exposure to the Truth CAN NEVER BE SAVED**

**QUESTION: Is it possible to still cross that line with God today?**

**YES!**

**It is possible to be so exposed to the Gospel—that God says—“NO MORE!”**

**B. Why It’s Impossible With God (vs. 6)—“*seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*”**

**1. They Join Hand With the Crucifiers of Jesus Christ**

**a.** Those who condemned Jesus Christ—did it with eyes wide open

**i.** They saw all the works that He did

- ii. They heard all the sermons that He preached
- iii. They tried to pin crime after crime after crime upon Him—and yet could find nothing against Him
- iv. And yet, with all the evidence in—they said “WE DON’T BELIEVE...LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED”

b. Paul said, for a person to be so exposed to the Gospel and yet say “NO”—puts him on the same level of those who crucified Jesus Christ

- i. *“We don’t believe He is the Christ”*
- ii. *“Let Him die!”*

2. They Pronounce Jesus’ Guilt—*“and put him to an open shame”*

- a. For the Jew to have been so exposed to the claims of Christ—and then turn his back upon Christ—to go back to Judaism—he makes a statement loud and clear to the world—**“JESUS IS A FAKE”** or **“JESUS IS NOT THE MESSIAH!”**
- b. They openly shame the person of Christ

**Hebrews 10:29**—*“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted **the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing**, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”*

**C. The Illustration of Blessing and Cursing (vs. 7-8)**—*“For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 but that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned”*

1. People respond to the gospel 2 different ways:

- a. They receive it and produce fruit that is desirable
- b. They reject it and produce thorns and briers—that are reserved to be burned

**QUESTION: Which One are You?**

**CONCLUSION:**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

*“A few summers ago, we took a family vacation to Toronto. We'd never been there, and we didn't know what to see, but all the guidebooks said, "You have to go up the CN Tower, the world's tallest building and free-standing structure.”*

*I didn't think that was a good idea, because I have a great fear of heights. Just the thought of being 1,815 feet above the ground made me queasy. But the kids said, "Aww, Dad, we gotta go. C'mon, Dad," so against my better judgment, we went.*

*I was the last one into the elevator, and I turned around, as some unwritten "Law of Elevators" says you're supposed to do. Then we started up. It was only then that I realized that the door of this elevator was actually made of glass, and that this elevator was affixed to the outside of the tower. So as we rushed up the side of the CN Tower, I could see the city of Toronto falling away at my feet. I was only inches from the door—and from the air outside and a free fall.*

*My palms started sweating, my throat got tight, and I started breathing really fast. I told myself, Just hang on. Soon you'll be on the observation floor.*

*I stumbled out of the elevator onto the observation floor, where I thought it would be safe. But I found that some sadist had installed a glass floor there, so that people could walk on it, and look straight down to the ground.*

*The kids were laughing as they walked onto the glass floor, jumped up and down, and even laid down.*

*"C'mon, Dad!" they yelled.*

*I didn't care how thick those blocks of glass were; they were installed by the contractor with the lowest bid, so I wasn't going to chance it."*

- **Paul is laying out the Hebrews' need to fear God**
- **They were not to continue to take salvation through Jesus Christ lightly**
- **It was time to make a decision—BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE!**

**HAVE YOU MADE THAT DECISION?**

**ARE YOU GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?**

**HAVE YOU TURNED FROM YOUR SIN AND EMBRACED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?**

**OR ARE YOU STILL HANGING ON THE EDGE—NOT YET READY TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT CHRIST?**

**YOU DON'T HAVE FOREVER?**

**YOU'RE NOT GARUNTEED NEXT TIME?**

**2 Corinthians 6:2**—*"behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*