

Growth Group Questions from Sunday, December 8 - Hebrews 6:1-12

Remember, if you miss Sunday, the sermon and Growth Group questions are posted soon after, usually by Sunday night.

*Sunday's passage was Hebrews 6:1-12. This time we will read portions of it that tie into the questions below as we ask the questions instead of at the beginning of the Growth Group.

- 1) Read Hebrews 6:1-3. Think about how Pastor Tim summarized it as, "Grow as you keep moving forward in your faith." What are some things listed in vv. 1-3 that we have a hard time thinking of as basics? Why?

(Remember, repentance and faith toward God as well as the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment are doctrines we often see in Scripture. In v. 2, Pastor Tim interpreted "washings" as cleansing rites the Jews would do that pointed ahead to the purification of Christ as seen in Christian baptism, and "the laying on of hands" as referring to the Jewish people laying their hands on sacrificial animals, and how Christ ultimately fulfilled being the final sacrifice for sin.)

- 2) This is the second Sunday now (also from Hebrews 5:11-14) that we have seen that we will have a hard time understanding parts of Hebrews that are coming up, especially about the priesthood of Christ, if we don't understand the Old Testament. For two Sundays now an application of the sermon has been a challenge to read all of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Do you have a Bible reading plan you would like to do in 2020 that you are comfortable sharing about with the group so they could pray for you?

Even if it's not the entire Bible in one year, that's ok! What is your plan to get into the Word on your own?

- 3) Read Hebrews 6:4-8. Are you convinced by Pastor Tim's explanation that vv. 4-8 is talking about "apparent Christians"? Why or why not? How do Simon in Acts 8 and Judas help us to see that it could be talking about people who are apparently saved who are not?
- 4) Read as many of the verses below out loud as you have time for that indicate the doctrine of "the perseverance of the saints." These verses were mentioned in the sermon and Pastor Tim said there are many more in Scripture. Which one speaks to you most directly in this season of your life?

* Philippians 1:6

* Romans 8:38-39

* Romans 8:29-30

* 1 Peter 1:4-5

* Ephesians 4:30

* 1 John 2:19

* Matthew 24:24

* John 10:27-29

- 5) Read Hebrews 6:9-12. How does loving other believers give us assurance of our salvation? Why are faith and patience needed in holding onto the promises of salvation?