

MINI DOCTRINE SERIES FROM

A faint, light-colored illustration serves as a background for the title. It depicts a mountain range in the distance and a herd of sheep in the foreground, some of which are looking towards the viewer. The style is reminiscent of a pencil or light ink sketch.

SALVATION AND SERVICE

**A BIBLICAL EXAMINATION OF
HEBREWS 6:4-6**

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SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 6:4-6 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,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

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.

We agree that this is one of the hardest portions of Scripture in the Bible to understand.

We must also agree that are many and varied interpretations.

However, there can only be one biblical answer. There can only be one correct interpretation.

We must remember that no one person has the right to claim to have the only answer when it comes to Bible interpretation.

Therefore, we believe that everyone must be able to make proper discernment based on his, or her ability to study the Scripture prayerfully.

We must never put our faith on the words of some man, but on, "Thus saith the Lord."

We will begin with the foundation of the book of Hebrews. Hebrews was written to saved, born again Jewish christians.

We know that from the very language itself, such as, "we," and, "us." (Hebrews 1:2 2:1,3,9 4:1,2 etc.)

They were also referred to as, "holy brethren," (3:1) and "brethren." (10:19)

Hebrews was written to the Jewish christian in particular, but also to every christian, as an exhortation to serve Christ by faith. (2:1-3 3:1 4:1,16 6:9 12:1,2 13:15,16)

The Jew, along with the Gentiles, were, and are, incurably religious. We trust Christ as Savior, and then go back into some sort of religious observance, thinking we are somehow pleasing God.

The Jew would get saved and then go back to observing the Old Testament Jewish law, thinking it had something to do with keeping saved.

It is the age old story of mixing faith with works. There is nothing wrong with good works, as long as I know why I do good works.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SALVATION AND SERVICE

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

A yoke is a sign of work. When we put the oxen to the yoke

it means we are putting him to work. The reason Christ used the yoke is because he knew they would realize it meant work.

The labor in Matthew 11:28 is man working at religion in order to please God. Trying to work my way to heaven. It is a works righteousness.

Christ said it is labor and heavy laden. He also said, "I will give you rest."

The "rest" Christ offers is salvation. It is eternal. It begins the very second we trust Christ as our Savior. He did all the work at Calvary when he died on the Cross. (John 5:17,20,36 9:3,4 10:25,32,37,38)

At Capernaum the multitude of people found Jesus and asked him a question.

SCRIPTURE:

John 6:28,29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

Jesus answered, and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

The Lord's answer was that they believe on him.

SCRIPTURE:

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

"I will give you rest." Salvation is easy. There is no work involved. It is by simple faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ the Lord.

"This is the work of God, that ye believe on him (Christ) whom he hath sent."

Then, in Matthew 11:29, the Lord said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Wait a minute! Did not the Lord just say he would give us rest? Didn't we just see that salvation is easy by faith in his work. What does he mean by his yoke?

The answer is, our service for him. That is our work. It is service. Salvation is free, and it is eternal.

However, the Lord expects us to serve him by faith.

Take my yoke upon you, AND LEARN OF ME. How do I serve Christ? It begins by learning of him, learning about him. How do I learn about him?

Bible study! Bible study! Bible study!

SCRIPTURE:

11 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Serving Christ begins with studying the word of God. As I study God's word, my faith is increased in Christ.

Notice these words, "These things I have written unto you that believe." That is salvation. It is free and it is rest from trying to work my way to heaven.

Then in the last part of that verse it says, "that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

Please notice these words. "These things (the Bible) are written to those who believe." That is faith in Christ for salvation.

The last part of that verse says, "that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." What does that mean? I thought I already believed.

It means the more I study the word of God, the more my faith is increased for service. "That ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me..."

Salvation is free without any works. (Ephesians 2:8,9 Titus 3:5) It is the yoke of Jesus Christ, his work, which is already finished.

Serving Christ is the second rest, and taking his yoke, which is a sign of work, but not for salvation.

It begins with learning about Christ, which is Bible study. In doing so my faith is increased. We need to increase our faith in Christ in order to serve him by faith. "That ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

It is impossible to serve Christ without faith in him. When we face opposition in our christian lives, we would be helpless and non victorious without faith.

In Hebrews 3:7 through 4:16 we have the account of the first and second rest. Israel in the Old Testament are given as an example. (Hebrews 3:7-19)

They failed to enter the second rest because of unbelief, or a lack of faith in God to preserve them.

Their second rest was Canaan, which is the life of victory.

In Matthew 11:28 the Greek word for labor is *kopiaō*, and it means, to feel fatigue, toil, and to be weary.

The Greek word for laden is *phortizo*, which means to overburden with spiratual anxiety.

Working my way to God and heaven is toil and fatigue and an overburden of spiratual anxiety. When is it enough work if I work my way to heaven?

The word for yoke, on the other hand, is the Greek word *zugos*, which has the idea of coupling together, and servitude. It also carries the thought of being obligated.

When one ox is put to work, it is harnessed to the ox-bow. When two oxen are used, they are harnessed together by the yoke. It is the instrument used to connect the two ox-bows together.

When we serve Christ, and take up the yoke, we are coupled together with him. We could not serve him otherwise, however, he expects us to serve him, and take up our yoke.

The christian who does not serve Christ will not find the second rest.

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God.

For he that is entered into his rest, (salvation) he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest (service) lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

When we cease from our works, and trust Christ as Savior, we are entered into the first rest of Matthew 11:28.

There remains a rest to the people of God, which means to take the yoke of Matthew 11:29 and 30.

Therefore, the inspiration of the book of Hebrews. It was written to the Jewish Christians who lapsed back into the law of Moses and were mixing faith and works. It will not work.

SALVATION, SERVICE, AND REPENTANCE

We have taken a great deal of effort to lay the foundation for the basic theme of the book of Hebrews. Chapter one reveals the majesty and glory of Christ.

Chapter two shows how he humbled himself when he took on flesh and blood.

Chapters five through ten shows his royal priesthood, and is intermingled with exhortations to serve.

Before we continue, it is imperative that we view two important Greek words in the New Testament. They are both translated as repent and repentance.

One is always in connection with salvation, and the other is in connection with service. Unfortunately, many Bible teachers confuse these two words, and when they do, God's word is misunderstood.

The first word is the Greek word *metanoeo*. (μετανοεω) In the Greek dictionary it is defined as a change of mind. In our Bible it is defined as repent, or repentance.

This is the word used in connection with believing the gospel. In order to believe the gospel I must change my mind.

When I am convinced that I am a sinner on my way to hell, and Christ paid for my sin, and I must accept him as my Savior, I change my mind and believe on him.

In the original Greek definition the word is divided by a hyphen. (μετα-νοεω) This shows the word is made up of two Greek words.

Neither of the two words in the original Greek mean to turn from sin. THAT IS FALSE DOCTRINE.

The word means to change my mind. I must change my mind and realize I am a sinner who needs to be saved, and the only way to be saved is by faith in the finished work of Christ.

I must change my mind about my eternal destiny and the consequences of sin.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Turning from sin as part of my salvation is a works righteousness. It indicates that I must do something. It means I do not really trust Christ completely, therefore, I will help him out by turning from my sin.

Repentance, in connection with salvation, is always a change of the mind.

The second word is almost identical with the first, with a slight variation. It is the Greek word *metanoia*. It is also translated from two Greek words and is separated in the Greek dictionary by a hyphen. (*μετα-νοια*)

Neither of the two Greek words that make up this word has the meaning of turn from sin. This word means a change that would show a change of mind, and is always in connection with service.

This word is also translated as repent in the New Testament. It is easy to see how many people get salvation and service confused. Yet, we need to make a distinction between the two.

Every person needs to change their mind (repent) and trust Christ as their Savior. That is called salvation. It is also the first rest of Matthew 11:28 and Hebrews 4:3,4, and 10.

The first rest is absolutley free. It cost nothing, and it is permanent, and forever. It is sealed by God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Before we go any further, allow me read the minds of most of the readers of this booklet. Right about now you are saying, "this guy is telling us we may commit sin. He is saying sin is alright with God."

No!! I do not think sin is alright with God. I do not promote sin. I did not say that.

Many of you, because you do not agree with me, would like to write me off as a heretic. Therefore, you may condemn me, and throw this booklet in the trash, and wash your hands of the whole thing.

At least I will admit that I am a worthless, vile, dispicable, sinner. Will you?

You may disagree with me all you like, however, the word repent does not mean to turn from sin.

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me;.... and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

This is where the meaning of the second word for repent comes in. The word metanoia. Remember the meaning was a change that would show a change of mind?

At some point after my salvation, a change of mind, Christ expects me to show a change that would reveal my salvation, or my change of mind. We should have a change.

That is called service. Serving the Lord Jesus Christ is the second rest of Matthew 11:29 and Hebrews 3:11,18,19 4:1,5,9, and 11.

It is also the second rest of the last half of 1 John 5:13.

Taking the yoke of Christ and finding rest unto our souls, (life, mind, etc.) begins with **learning of Christ**.

That is what we call Bible study. Searching the Scriptures. As we study God's word, we increase our faith in Christ. The Bible will increase our faith for service. We will be able to defend our faith because we have the proof of the Scriptures.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 10:10,11 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

In these verses we should see salvation and service, and the first and second rest.

In the first part of verse 10 we see salvation....

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness," That is where we change our mind.(repent - metaneo) That is the first rest, which is absolutely free.

In the second part of that verse, and in the next verse, we should see our service..

"and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." .. because.."Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

If I repent, (metanoia) and show a change that would reveal a change of mind, (metaneo) I would learn of Christ, and witness for Christ, so someone else may be saved.

If I do not, it would probably mean I was ashamed of Christ. If I am ashamed of Christ the reason might be because of some sin in my life.

In Hebrews 6:1 and 6:6 the Greek word for repentance is the word metanoia. It means a change that would show a change of mind.

The Hebrew christians had not repented. They did not have a change that would reveal their salvation and a change of mind.

They were reminded of their "fathers," who fell in the wilderness because of unbelief, lack of faith. (Hebrews 3:7 - 4:8)

They were reminded to take the yoke of Christ and labor for that second rest, which is the peace of service for Christ. (Hebrews 4:5,9,10,11)

They were still babes in Christ and unlearned concerning the Scriptures. (Hebrews 5:11 - 6:3 also compare Hebrews 10:23-25 with 11 Timothy 2:14-18)

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 6:1b ...not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Notice the "repentance from dead works." That is service. It is the word metanoia. A change that would show a change of mind. Dead works is false religion and false doctrine.

Notice also, if you will, **from dead works, and faith toward God. From and toward.**

WERE THEY SAVED

The question is, are the people mentioned in Hebrews 6:4 saved, or lost?

Did they come close to being saved, and rejected the gospel, and now it is impossible for them to be saved?

Were they once saved, and then committed some sin, and now it is impossible for them to be resaved?

Are they those group of people who claim to be saved, and are not really saved at all, and it is impossible for them to be saved?

These are just some of the varied interpretations of Hebrews 6:4-6. However, there is only Biblical answer.

We do not believe it is possible to lose our salvation. God does not lie. He promises eternal life, not temporary eternal life.

We do not believe it is impossible for anyone to be saved. Once again, if it were, God would be a liar, and he is not.

The word enlighten is the Greek word *photizo*, and it means illuminate, make to see light, and make to see. It is the same word used in Ephesians 1:18.

How can we say the word applies to one group as saved, and another group as not saved?

The word tasted in verses 4 and 5 is the same Greek word used in 1 Peter 2:3.

It is also used of the death of the Lord in Hebrews 2:9. The word means to experience.

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man.

To say the people in Hebrews 6:4,5 did not literally taste and experience the word of God, is to say Christ did not die.

We know, however, that Christ did taste, or experience, death, because the Bible says so.

These Hebrews tasted the good word of God and were saved.

We have no right to make God's word mean what we want it to mean.

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 6:6 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 open shame.

Remember, we said, the second rest is service by faith. What is it that is impossible to do?

It is impossible to be renew them again to repentance as long as they put Christ to open shame and crucify him to themselves.

Once again we need to identify a few words. The word renew means to restore. How can something be restored, unless it was possessed to begin with.

Also the word for fall away is the Greek word *parapipto*, which means to fall aside, or a lapse.

These saved, born again, Jewish christians, had taken a lapse, or fallen aside in their christian service.

They were just as saved as any one of God's children. They had begun their christian life with joy and zeal, and had apparently taken the yoke of Matthew 11:29 and began to learn of Christ.

Then, when the opposition came, they could not deal with it. Usually, the opposition in our christian life is false doctrine.

Therefore, the warning of Hebrews chapter three through chapter ten.

Throughout the New Testament we are constantly warned about false doctrine. Why would the Jewish christians be any different? They were being attacked by their families for their faith in Christ and their testimony.

The word used for repentance in Hebrews 6:1 and 6 is the word *metanoia*, and it means a change that would show a change of mind.

It is a change that reveals I have changed my mind and trusted Christ as my Savior.

It is an outward indication that there is a change in my life, and people see something different.

It is not something I do in order to be saved, it is something I do after I am saved if I am to serve Christ.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 3:1,2 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 3:7,8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth, therefore, fruits meet for repentance.

In this portion of Scripture, we have the two Greek words. In verses one and two, John came preaching to repent. The word is *metanoeo*, which means to change the mind.

John was preaching to Israel about their coming Savior. They must change their mind about many things and trust Christ as their Savior. Many of them did.

NOTE: John the Baptist was presenting Christ to the Nation of Israel, not to the New Testament church. (John 1:31)

In verses 7 and 8 the religious leaders came to John's baptism. He called them vipers and said, "bring forth fruits meet for repentance."

The word repentance is *metanoia*, a change that would show a change of mind.

In other words, he was calling these religious leaders of Israel hypocrites.

He was saying to them, "If you really had a change of mind, you would bring forth fruits to show a change of mind."

There would be a change, (*metanoia*) that would reveal your change of mind. (*metanoeo*)

The Hebrew christians had trusted Christ as Savior. They had taken up the yoke of Christ and began to learn of him.

Then, they put down the yoke, and had fallen aside. They had taken a lapse.

Because of that, they were putting Christ to open shame. (publicly)

They, along with most christians today, needed to pick up their yoke and begin to learn of Christ all over again.

SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 5:11,12 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not strong meat.

Hebrews 6:1a Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection,.....

This probably sounds familiar to most preachers and pastors. How often we see people trust Christ, and with initial joy pick up the yoke and begin to learn of Christ.

Then we see them take a lapse and fall away. They stop attending church. There is no outward appearance of salvation.

They become dull of hearing. When they ought to be teachers, they need to be taught themselves. They are babes in Christ, when they should be full grown christians.

They cannot take in the strong meat of the Word of God, they need to be bottle fed.

As long as they are in this condition, it is impossible for them to be restored to a place that would show a change of mind. There is no outward appearance of salvation, there is no fruit, and there is no second rest.
"and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Hebrews 6:4-6 has nothing to do becoming saved, it has everything to do with our service after salvation.

It has to do with taking up our yoke and learning of Christ, and going on to perfection.

The church can be seduced into falling away and following a false teacher. (read Jude, 11 Timothy 2:15-18)

The author of Hebrews says...

Hebrews 6:9 But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

Is it impossible to be resaved? Of course it is because you cannot lose your salvation. (Hebrews 2:11 10:10,14)

It is impossible to be restored to a change that would show a change of mind if I continue in sin and false doctrine.

CAN YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

THE ANSWER IS...YES!

1. ALL HAVE SINNED.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

2. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."

Titus 3:5

3. CHRIST HAS PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.

"Who (Christ) His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed."

I Peter 2:24

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

4. YOU MUST ACCEPT CHRIST FOR SALVATION.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Acts 16:31

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

John 1:12

5. YOU CAN KNOW.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

I John 5:13