

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 5:11-6:3**.
- B. This sermon (or lesson) is to be given in two parts. The first part is this morning when 3 of the 6 basic doctrines of Heb. 6:1-3 will be considered.
- C. Tonight, the remaining 3 will be discussed. Please come back tonight to hear the rest of the lesson.
- D. The six foundational doctrines according to the Hebrews writer:
  - 1. Repentance from dead works.
  - 2. Faith towards God.
  - 3. Instructions about washings.
  - 4. The laying on of hands.
  - 5. The resurrection of the dead.
  - 6. The eternal judgment.
- E. This lesson (Part 1) is about repentance from dead works, faith towards God, and instructions about washings (baptisms).

## I. THESE THREE DOCTRINES COMPRISE THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

- A. We know the plan of salvation to be: hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized. Even though all of these steps are not mentioned in this text, we know the Hebrew writer to be speaking of this plan nevertheless.
- B. Faith, repentance, and baptism are essential to salvation and are therefore foundational doctrines of the Xian system.
- C. One should not be alarmed at two things stated:
  - 1. The mixed up order in which they are mentioned (Peter does the same in Ac. 5:30).
  - 2. The teachings of plural baptisms. Seven baptisms are mentioned in the NT, but there is just one baptism that saves, see Eph. 4:5.

## II. FIRST, REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS.

- A. Repentance is a condition of salvation given by Christ Himself (as well as others) for all mankind (Lk. 13:3).  
"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
- B. This is also a condition of salvation in the OT as well (2Chr. 7:14).  
and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- C. Non-Xians are to repent and obey X in becoming Xians (Ac. 17:30; 2Pet. 3:9).  
(Ac 17:30) "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,"  
(2Pet 3:9) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
- D. But repentance doesn't end after one enters the body of X. A Xian will continue to walk faithfully by repenting of the sins he/she may commit (Ac. 8:22).  
"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."  
(Five of the seven churches of Asia in Rev. chapters 2 & 3 were told to repent.)
- E. What is to be repented of is made clear in Heb. 6:1; the dead works--which amounts to sin. These works can take several forms:
  - 1. Xians trying to be justified by works of the Law (Gal. 2:16).  
we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.
  - 2. People worshipping something other than the Creator (see Rom. 1:28-32, esp. v32).
  - 3. For the unsaved, these dead works mean constant spiritual death (Eph. 2:1).  
And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

4. The root of these evil deeds is Satan (Eph. 2:2).  
in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

### III. **SECOND, FAITH TOWARD GOD.**

- A. Habakkuk prophesied that “the righteous shall live by faith” (Hab. 2:4).  
“Behold, as for the proud one,  
His soul is not right within him;  
But the righteous will live by his faith.
- B. Without faith, therefore, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).  
And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- C. By faith, the OT Israelites, obtained approval (see Heb. 11:2). Some examples are:
  1. Abel offered a more perfect sacrifice, by faith (Heb. 11:4).  
By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.
  2. Noah built an ark that, saved him and his family, by faith (Heb. 11:7).  
By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
  3. Abraham did not know where he was going, but went by faith and was considered righteous (Heb. 11:8; Gen. 15:6).  
(**Heb 11:8**) By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.  
(**Gen 15:6**) Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- D. Faith is not a “leap into the dark” but by its very definition (Heb. 11:1) is a conclusion based on logic, reason, and evidence (Rom. 10:17).  
(**Heb 11:1**) Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
(**Rom 10:17**) So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

### IV. **THIRD, INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WASHINGS (BAPTISMS).**

- A. If baptism is an essential teaching of the scriptures and it is; then why is it, that some teach it is not essential to salvation? See Mk. 16:16.
- B. These reason for the plurality is that the NT mentions seven different kinds of baptism:
  1. The baptism of the HS (Ac. 2:2-4).  
And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
  2. The baptism of fire (Mt. 3:11).  
“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
  3. The baptism of John, a baptism of repentance (Mt. 3:16; Ac. 19:4).  
(**Mt 3:16**) And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him,  
(**Ac 19:4**) And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”
  4. The baptism of Moses (1Cor. 10:2).  
and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
  5. The baptism of suffering (Mk. 10:38-39; Lk. 12:50).  
(**Mk 10:38-39**) But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” **39** And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.”  
(**Lk 12:50**) “But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!”

6. The baptism for the dead (1Cor. 15:29).  
Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?
7. The baptism for the remission of sins, X's baptism (Mt. 28:18-20; Ac. 2:38).  
(Mt 28:18-20) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."  
(Ac 2:38) Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Of all the baptisms listed only the last one is the "one baptism" of Eph. 4:5. It is the only one of the seven that can save (1Pet. 3:21).  
Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- D. The elementary teaching is that we need to know of the seven, so that we can know of the essentially of the one (Rom. 6:3-5).  
Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The plan of salvation as stated here (faith, repentance, and baptism) is one of the elementary teachings of the NT.
- B. Yet, at the same time we see that:
  1. Repentance is valid only as one refrains from dead works.
  2. Faith toward God is shown in acceptable works (Jas. 2:24).
  3. Of the seven baptisms of the NT, knowledge of the one that saves is of extreme importance.
- C. To understand these things is the beginning of a good foundation in which one can go on to maturity.
- D. Tonight we shall complete our list with a discussion of:
  1. The laying on of hands.
  2. The resurrection of the dead.
  3. The eternal judgment.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.