

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 5:11-6:3**.
- B. This sermon (or lesson) is being given in two parts. The first part was this morning when the first 3 of the 6 basic doctrines of Heb. 6:1-3 were considered.
- C. Tonight, our lesson will be to explain the last three.
- D. By way of review, the 6 foundational doctrines of the Xian system according to the Hebrews writer:
 - 1. Repentance from dead works (a command for aliens and Xians alike).
 - 2. Faith towards God (the righteous shall live by faith).
 - 3. Instructions about washings (baptisms), seven are mentioned in the NT.
 - 4. The laying on of hands.
 - 5. The resurrection of the dead.
 - 6. The eternal judgment.

I. **FOURTH, THE LAYING ON OF HANDS.**

- A. At first reading, one might be puzzled as to why the laying on of hands is an elementary doctrine. The main reason is because the use of miraculous spiritual gifts was prevalent in NT times.
- B. Because of false doctrines being taught today about the HS and the power to do miracles, it becomes increasingly important to know what the NT says about the laying on of hands.
- C. There are three reasons (or cases) in the NT for this practice:
 - 1. It was done for a blessing.
 - a. Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey (Ac 13:1-3).
Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
 - b. Jesus gave little children a blessing (Mt. 19:15).
And after laying His hands on them, He departed from there.
 - c. Blessings given by Jacob to Joseph, Manasseh, and Ephraim (Gen. 48:14-16).
But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the first-born. **15** And he blessed Joseph, and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, **16** The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; And may my name live on in them, And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."
 - 2. It was done to perform a miracle.
 - a. Jesus lay on hands on people to heal their sicknesses (Lk. 4:40).
And while the sun was setting, all who had any sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on every one of them, He was healing them.
 - b. Paul laid on hands to heal people (Ac. 28:8-9).
And it came about that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. **9** And after this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.
 - 3. It was done to pass on the ability to perform a miracle.
 - a. The apostles laid hands on those in Samaria (Ac. 8:17-18).
Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. **18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

- b. The apostle Paul to those in Ephesus (Ac. 19:5-7).
And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 And there were in all about twelve men.
- D. It is important to realize that there are no records of any non-apostle being able (by the laying on of hands) to pass on the ability to perform miracles to any other Xian.
- E. Only the apostles could pass on the ability to work miracles. Not even Philip, who could perform miracles, was given that ability.
- F. Therefore, when the apostles died, so did the ability to pass on miraculous spiritual gifts. When the NT was completed all of the miraculous gifts died out (see 1Cor. 13:3-10).

II. **FIFTH, THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.**

- A. In some religious seminars today, doctrines are being taught which denies the virgin birth, the miracles of X and the apostles, and the resurrection of the dead.
- B. This is extremely sad because belief in the resurrection (of the dead) is elementary in the Xian system.
- C. We know 4 facts about the resurrection of the dead:
 - 1. All (both good and bad) will rise from the graves on the final day (Jn. 5:28-29).
"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment."
 - 2. Paul preached the resurrection, and it was considered by the people as a strange teaching (remember the Sadducees did not believe it), (Ac. 17:18).
And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. And some were saying, "What would this idle babblers wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"-- because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.
 - 3. Christianity promises forgiveness and purpose in this life but also hope in death because of the resurrection (1Cor. 15:50-54).
Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.
 - 4. One cannot be baptized for the remission of sins unless they believe in the resurrection; otherwise our faith is vain and we can't be baptized (1Cor. 15:14; 1Pet. 3:21).
(1Cor 15:14) and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. (1Pet 3:21) And 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. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Jesus was not the Son of God and Xianity is worthless.

III. **SIXTH, THE ETERNAL JUDGMENT.**

- A. As certain as the previous five doctrines are, so is the last which speaks of a great eternal judgment that is to be carried out.
- B. This judgment is spoken of in the OT by the prophet Daniel (Dan. 12:2).
"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt."
- C. Jesus spoke many times about this judgment and how we are to prepare for it. He gave several parables in the book of Matthew telling us to be ready. The apostles echoed this theme in the remainder of the NT.
- D. It will be a terrible day for some because of their unbelief (Mt. 12:41).
"The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

- E. Everyone will be there--to be judged (2Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:16).
(2Cor 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
(Rom 2:16) on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.
- F. Jesus will be the judge on that day (Jn. 5:22, 27) and will separate the nations like a shepherd can separate the sheep from the goats (see Mt. 25:31-46).
(Jn 5:22, 27) "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son," 27 ...and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We have seen 6 foundational areas that each Xian must begin with as they mature in X.
- B. Three of the 6 deal with the plan of salvation and the latter 3 with areas of Xian doctrine of extreme importance.
- C. If one does not believe these things and yet says that he/she is able to teach, the admonition of being taught again applies (Heb. 5:12).
For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.