

WARNINGS, ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXHORTATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

IF PAGAN – DO NOT BELIEVE IN A MONOTHEISTIC CREATOR

Ask ? - Do you believe in continuity of being (universe as we know is eternal) or creator/creation distinction?

In other words – Do you believe that everything has always existed, came from nothing or from a creator?

Or one could ask - Did DNA and mentality come from a rock (star dust)? or Did everything come from a creator?

Answer – **Romans 1:19-21** – “because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

IF RELIGIOUS – (BUDDHISM, HINDUISM, JEWISH, ISLAMIC, CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR OTHER)

Ask ? – I usually ask them – Do you know there are really only 2 religions in the world; there are just a lot of different names?

Does the religion rely on a system of works to merit the approval of God? or
Does the religion teach that obtaining a relationship with God is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and not works

Answer: **Ephesians 2:8-9** – “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

IF SAVED BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE (RELATIONSHIP)

Ask ? – Are you in fellowship with God ?

Or Do you understand what it means to be “filled with the Spirit”, “live by the Spirit” or “Walk by the Spirit”

Answer: **1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Ephesians 5:18 – “.....be filled with the Spirit,”

IF SAVED BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE
(BUT THE PERSON HAS EXPRESSED THAT THEY DO NOT GO TO CHURCH ANYWHERE)

Ask ? - What reason have you stopped attending any church? (Usually they are willing to say why and sometimes they have a good reason)
Would you like to come to a Bible Study or service where Bible is taught?
Some who have stopped attending may not have a good reason -

Answer: **Hebrews 2:1-4** – Do not neglect so great a salvation and DRIFT AWAY

IF SAVED BUT YOU HAVE NO ASSURANCE OF YOUR SALVATION AND ARE PLAGUED WITH DOUBTS, DESPAIR, DEPRESSION AND HAVE BECOME VERY DISCOURAGED AND CONFUSED - SOME HAVE STUDIED A LOT AND STILL HAVE NO ASSURANCE

Ask ? - Do you mainly study the word of God for your basis of truth or have you relied mainly on others such as parents, teachers, radio or TV or Internet teachers, church history writers or commentaries for your source of information? (Some have studied all the great church history theologians such as Polycarp, Clement of Rome, Erasmus, Tertullian, Augustine, Luther, Calvin, etc. so I ask?

Are these writers inspired writers of the Word of God or just commentators of the word of God?

Answer: ETERNAL SECURITY PASSAGES

Ephesians 2:8-9 – have been saved (perfect passive participle)

1 Corinthians 1:2 – we have been sanctified (perfect passive participle)

1 Peter 1:4 - our inheritance is reserved (perfect passive participle) in heaven

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified (perfect passive verb) with Christ

1 John 5:1 – those that believe in Christ are (perfect passive verb) born again

Also distinguish IS (initial Sanctification) from ES (Experiential Sanctification) can help understand many confusing verses that seem to imply losing salvation but is actually teaching forfeiting rewards from unfaithfulness

Hebrews 10:1-18 focuses on the blessings received at initial salvation

Hebrews 10:19-39 – focuses on consequences that the believer will suffer from negative volition toward the word or turning away from the Christian Life

IF SAVED AND THE TURMOILS AND TRIALS OF THIS LIFE HAVE
OVERWHELMED AND DISCOURAGED YOU TO THE POINT THAT YOU HAVE
NO PEACE OR JOY AND HAVE BECOME TOTALLY SELF-CENTERED WITH
DOUBTS, SELF-PITY AND COMPLAINING

Ask ? – Are you trusting in God and His promises to work things out or
are you emotionally reacting to circumstances ?

Answer : Hebrews 4:3, 10-11

IF SAVED AND HAVE BECOME APATHETIC OR LAZY (DULL OF HEARING)
AND HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE ORIENTATION OR FALLEN AWAY FROM
POSITIVE VOLITION TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD

Ask ? - How is being apathetic or negative toward studying the word of
God working for you?

What do you think is more important in life human viewpoint or
divine viewpoint?

Answer : Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-12

IF SAVED AND HAVE BECOME CALLOUSED AND HARDENED (DESPISE THE WORD)
TOWARD GOD AND HIS WORD

(10:29 - This person has trampled under foot the Son of God; regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted or despised the Spirit of grace)

Ask ? – If you are antagonistic toward the Bible what do you believe caused such hardness of your heart?

Do you think that it is possible to think differently or change your attitude?

Answer : **Hebrews 10:1-18** (Initial Sanctification)

Hebrews 10:19-39 (Experiential Sanctification)

Warning: Hebrews 10:26-31

Encouragement: Hebrews 10:32-34

Exhortation: Hebrews 10:35-39

IF SAVED AND HAVE BECOME (DEFIANT OF THE WORD) MEANING THEY HAVE BECOME BITTER, DEFILED OTHERS, UNABLE TO REPENT AND REFUSED GOD BY BEING REBELLIOUS (EXTREME REVERSIONISM)

Ask ? - If you have extreme bitterness do you think you can ever be happy again ?
What do you think you would need to do to be happy again ?

Answer : Warning: Hebrews 12:15-17; 12:29
Encouragement: Hebrews 12:22-24
Exhortation: Hebrews 12: 12-28

IF SAVED AND YOU HAVE ALLOWED YOURSELF TO (1) DRIFT, (2) DOUBT, (3) BECOME DULL OF HEARING, (4) DESPISE THE WORD OR (5) TOTALLY BECOME DEFIANT OF THE WORD IN ANY OF THESE STAGES OF REVERSIONISM

Ask ? - Do you still feel loved by God?
Would you like to feel loved by God again?

Answer : Hebrews 12:1-5, 7-8, 11-13

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS (Book of Exhortation to Believers to prevent Reversionism)

I. God spoke at end of the age in His Son (Final most complete revelation from God)

II. Jesus is Greater than all

A. Greater than the Prophets (1:1-3);

B. Greater than the Angels (1:4-2:18)

C. Greater than Moses (3:1-4:13)

D. Greater than the Levitical Priests (Ch 5,7 & 8)

E. Greater than the Old Covenant (Ch 8 & 9)

F. Greater Sacrifice than OT sacrifices (Ch 10)

G. Greater Promises (Ch 11 & 12)

III. Encourage group of discouraged (mostly Jewish community probably near Rome)
in midst of persecution (mainly for changing from Judaism to Christianity)

To not fall back into Judaism (Law of Moses, animal sacrifices, circumcision, etc)

To not drift away from Christian way of life (Spirituality, walking by the Holy Spirit,
production of divine good works by Holy Spirit, exercise faith-rest, perseverance
and endurance, spiritual growth, virtue love and maturity)

- IV. Outline of exhortations from Hebrews (application – what are signs of Reversionism and how to correct it)
- A. 2:1-4 Problem can start when one neglects the word – do not neglect the word (**DRIFT FROM THE WORD**)
 - B. 3:12-14; 4:1-3,11 Evil heart of unbelief (**DOUBT THE WORD**) – believe promises to enter faith-rest
 - C. 5:11-14; 6:1-8;9-20 Do not become **DULL OF HEARING THE WORD** – by being lazy, apathetic or negative toward word of God but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)
 - D. 10:26-39 – (35) **DO NOT DESPISE THE WORD** – This person has trampled under foot the Son of God; regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted or despised the Spirit of grace
 - E. 12:14-29 **DO NOT DEFY THE WORD** – by refusing God (12:25) turn away or become rebellious
 - F. 12:1-5; 11-15 The Lord **DISCIPLINES** those whom He loves and needs correction

- V. Exhortations from Hebrews (Application to live the spiritual Christian way of life)
- 10:22a - Draw near to God – clean conscience (confession – 1 John 1:9)
 - 10:22b - Full assurance of faith - eternal security
 - 3:12-14; 10:23 - Hold fast the confession of their faith – not wavering
 - 4:3,11 - Enter His rest (exercise faith-rest by combining the promises with faith)
 - 2:1-4; 5:11-14 – Do not neglect the word but consistently take in the word to
renew your mind to have divine viewpoint to discern good from evil
 - 10:24 - Encourage one another to do divine good
 - 10:25 - Not forsaking assembling together to receive BD and fellowship
 - 10:35 - Do not throw away your confidence which has great reward
 - 10:36 - Need of enduranceto receive what was promised
 - 10:39 - Continue in faith to the preserving of the soul (ES) and not shrink back to
destruction (reversionism)

- VI. Theme of confidence, strong encouragement, assurance
- Confidence or strong encouragement – 3:6; 4:16; 6:18; 10:19; 10:35
 - Assurance – 3:14; 6:11; 6:19; 10:22; 11:1

VII. IF WE AND LET US PASSAGES IN HEBREWS

IF WE – Hebrews 2:3; 3:6; 3:14; 10:26

LET US – Hebrews 4:1; 4:11; 4:14; 4:16; 6:1; 10:22; 10:23; 10:24; 12:1a; 12:1b;
12:28; 13:13; 13:15