

Let Us Move On!

Text: Hebrews 6:1-3

Date: 6-9-24

I. Leave the foundations (Heb. 6:1-2)

The author implores these believers to *leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ*.

Is this a call to abandon the basic doctrine of Christ?

One possibility is that the author was calling for these believers to leave the elementary Christian teaching and go forward in growing in the deeper things of Christ. Another view is that the author called for these believers to leave the OT way, the system of Judaism. This is what I believe the writer is saying and seems to fit the context of the book” “They were to forsake their immaturity by refusing to go back to the rituals, rules of the OT, and go on to spiritual maturity by embracing NT Christianity. Those OT practices were completely inadequate for living for Christ. Why would they want to live in light of the dim candle of the OT when they could grow up in the light of the NT sun” (Gary Small, used with permission).

Before, the OT system was God’s revealed truth, but now the writer of Hebrews is continuing to make clear: Jesus Christ is the Messiah Himself; therefore, He is the fulfillment of those OT shadows, types, and pictures. Seek to move to maturity by pursuing the Messiah Himself and do not go back to the incomplete basics of only the pictures of the Messiah.

The very truth of Jesus Christ’s complete and perfect work in contrast to the incomplete OT law and work will be that which carries us along into spiritual growth and maturity.

Following Christ will lead us into the fullness and depths of spiritual life. See Col. 2:17.

“In this context, spiritual maturity involves receiving and responding appropriately to revealed truth (5:14), zeal for the realization of hope (v. 11), and unwavering faith and steadfast endurance (v. 12).[329]” (https://www.planobiblechapel.org/tcon/notes/html/nt/hebrews/hebrews.htm#_ftn16).

“Scripture gives no comfort whatever to the person whose claim to have trusted Christ has not resulted in a life of righteousness” (Kent 104). Spiritual growth and maturity must be at the forefront of all who call themselves believers. Anything else is living dangerously before Almighty God.

The author then lays out 6 foundational truths that they did not need to go back to.

- **Repentance from dead works** – What are the dead works? Any action of work that attempts to bring man into a relationship with God. This could be our own works, others works, or even those works within the context of the law.
- **Faith in God** – this would be the trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- **Washings** (Baptisms) – This may be a reference to the Jewish ceremonial rite of spiritual cleansing indicated by physical washing. The blood of Christ would accomplish infinitely more than any specific OT ceremonial washing.
- **Laying on of hands** – 1) Refers to the Acts meaning of laying on hands of new converts, leaders, and Timothy by Paul (II Tim. 1:6). 2) The OT meaning was where the person who brought a sacrifice laid hands on it to identify with the sacrifice (Lev. 1:4; 3:8, 13). This identified with the sacrifice as the substitute for the life of the offeror. While this was important to the Jew, the NT believers would move past this foundational truth to believing that we now identify with Jesus Christ Himself as the Holy Spirit baptizes us into union with Him by faith.
- **Resurrection of the dead**

- **Eternal judgment** – “The Old Testament taught the resurrection of the dead (Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; cf. John 11:24; Acts 24:14-15) and (6) eternal judgment (Gen. 18:25; Isa. 33:22). The revelation that Jesus Christ brought shed new light on both of these fundamental doctrines” (ibid).

II. **Progressing to Maturity (Heb. 6:3)**

While progression to maturity is our choice, it will be a direct result of God permitting us to do so. This clearly shows that God’s involvement is both necessary and needed. This is the divine enablement.

We cannot put into practice these principles without first God working in our lives.

God is doing the work of transforming our lives into that which is pleasing and glorifying to Him.

We cannot do this without God, but we cannot leave it only to God. We must strive to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, dying to self, and saying no to sin.

Application Lessons

- **Moving on in maturity is not only a part of spiritual growth; it is a part of God’s plan for each believer.**
- **Moving on in maturity always involves trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- **Moving on in maturity takes hard work but when spiritual growth is the goal the reward of becoming like Christ is well worth the effort.**