



Saturday 3rd April 2021

⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace. ⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Hebrews 6

These verses must be understood knowing that scripture clearly teaches that true believers cannot lose their salvation. In verse 9 following (see tomorrow) the writer gives encouragement to his readers. The writer has in mind here those who look like true believers but are not. The same point is clear in the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20) which speaks of those who start well but ultimately prove not be true believers. We see-

- **The privileges they don't take advantage of (v4-5)** – The writer says these people have experienced some of the blessings of true believers and so look as if they are true believers (hence the description here) because they have been members of the church family but have never truly come to faith -
 - **They were enlightened (v4)** – they heard God's Word, accepted it as truth for a while but have since fallen away (we see this in the parable of the sower).
 - **They have tasted the heavenly gift (v4)** – it is not obvious what this is but it seems to be blessings received (perhaps sharing communion) as part of God's people in the local church family.
 - **They have shared in the Spirit, the powers of the age to come (v4-5)** – Being in the church family they will see God at work in and through His people. In the Bible we see this as Judas, as one of the 12, experiences all the other 11 do.
 - **They have heard God's Word (v5) (v12)**- They sit listening to God's Word alongside all the others in the church family and this is why their final decision that all they have heard is rubbish is seen as their own decision and fault.
- **The reason why they cannot be brought back (6v1-8)** – This teaching has caused much heartache and we need to understand it rightly if that is not to be the case. When someone leaves the church family and turns their back on Christ there are two possibilities. First, they have entered a period of rebellion and resistance to God and His ways and through prayer, love and sometimes discipline they see the error of their ways and return to God. The second, which is in mind here, is when the person leaves rejecting God and continues to do that, then they are crucifying Christ again (v6), that is they are mocking Him, rejecting Him and trying to humiliate Him. They have received so much blessing that this rejection of Christ is rightly seen as more perverse than the rejection by someone who has had less privileges. They are like land (v7-8) that despite all the right provision produces thistles and not a good crop.

Question

How do these verses help us realise the importance of having true faith?

Prayer

Lord we pray that all in our church family will have a living relationship with You. Amen