

“Things That Accompany Salvation”
Hebrews 6:7-10
(Preached at Trinity, March 10, 2024)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The context of the Book of Hebrews surrounds a church that is largely comprised of Christians converted out of Judaism. The Jewish community around them was hostile to these converts. They saw them as blasphemers and heretics who had abandoned the Jewish faith. They were shunned and despised. Many lost their property and their means of providing for their families.
2. In the context of this suffering, some within this Hebrew church were abandoning the Christian faith and returning to Judaism. I've been careful to point out, true believers will persevere in spite of the greatest affliction. But there will always be nominal, counterfeit believers in the church. Lacking the reality and power of God's transforming grace, enduring the hardships of Christianity often proves to be too difficult. Some were turning back. The same thing happens in every generation including our own.
3. While in the process of describing the superiority of the priesthood of Christ and comparing it to the priesthood of Melchizedek the author suddenly pauses. He realizes the level of his teaching was beyond the ability of some of his hearers to comprehend. He offers a scathing rebuke.
4. In the context of the situation in this church it was a serious charge. The author was considering the possibility that they were outside the faith; that they were not believers. Why does he have this suspicion? Because they had not grown in their faith. They were lacking in spiritual maturity.
Hebrews 5:12 NAU - "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."
5. He issues a serious warning to those who had made an outward profession and then fall away.
Hebrews 6:6 NAU - "it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame."
6. He then returns to his main point. Genuine believers make progress in grace. They grow. To illustrate it he gives an analogy from nature.
When good soil is well-watered it brings forth abundant fruit.
Hebrews 6:7 NAU - "For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;"
On the other hand, when it brings forth nothing but thorns and thistles, it is worthless and the weeds are burned as refuse.
Hebrews 6:8 NAU - "but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned."
Fruitfulness is essential to the Christian faith.

7. After the stern warning, the author offers a word of encouragement and hope:
Hebrews 6:9 NAU - "But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way."
8. Although they were not making good progress in the faith, there was still evidence of fruit. There was still evidence that their salvation was genuine. Evidence that he refers to as "things that accompany salvation."
9. Genuine faith bears fruit. Works do not contribute to our salvation but works are inseparable from it.
- A. James taught against a dead orthodoxy that speaks of faith but does not demonstrate good works.
James 2:19-20 NAU - "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?"
- B. Our Lord also stressed the importance of fruit in evaluating genuine conversion. Salvation is accompanied by fruitfulness.
- a. He described it in the Parable of the Sower:
Matthew 13:23 NAU - "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."
- b. When describing false teachers Jesus declared:
Matthew 7:15-21 NAU - "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ "So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*"
- c. Jesus described it as an issue of the heart:
Luke 6:43-45 NAU - "For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ "For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

- C. The Apostle Paul makes a similar statement about the importance of fruit in his letter to the Church of Colossae.
Colossians 1:9-10 NAU - "For this reason also, since the day we heard of *it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"
10. Perhaps you are pondering the question, what are the things that accompany salvation? What kind of fruit does saving faith produce? They are numerous. God's transforming grace changes us. It changes how we think. It has an impact upon our attitudes. It changes our appetites.
11. In the immediate context, the author refers to their love and care for one another, even in the face of their great affliction. But the things that accompany our salvation are very broad. Saving faith changes everything in our life. This afternoon I want to address some of these things that accompany salvation. Again, they are very broad. These are merely the categories of things that accompany salvation.
 Peter reminds us of the importance of a lively faith.
2 Peter 1:8-10 NAU - "For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;"
2 Peter 3:17-18 NAU - "be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity."
- I. The things that accompany salvation are the fruit of regeneration. God gives us a new heart. Our good works flow forth from this change of heart.
- A. Our new heart results in a new attitude regarding Christ.
1. The Christian recognizes the lordship of Christ—that He is King and as King He has the right to rule and reign over all.
 2. With a motivation of love, the Christian strives to honor and please Christ through obedience.
 Every true believer consistently obeys the law of God
1 John 2:4-5 NAU - "The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵ but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:"
 3. We do good works because we desire to honor Christ.
Hebrews 6:10 NAU - "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."
 4. It is a dangerous thing to know God's Law but then dismiss it.

- B. A new attitude towards self.
1. The lost man is self-centered. Everything in his life is focused upon satisfying his desires.
 2. The Christian is humbled by the grace and mercy of God. He sees himself as unworthy. He has died to self and submits all to the Lordship of Christ.
 3. This also affects how the Christian interacts with others. Being the recipient of God's rich grace and mercy he seeks to manifest grace and mercy towards others.
- C. The Christian has a new attitude towards sin.
1. The Christian has a new attitude regarding the Law of God.
 - a. God is holy in all of his Divine essence.
 - b. The Law of God reflects the holy character of God.
 - c. The Christian loves the Law of God because he loves God and desires to reflect His holy character.
 2. The Christian is no longer inclined to sin. Sin no longer characterizes his life. He has a tender conscience, a conscience easily afflicted by the presence of sin.
 3. We hate our sin because of its offense to God and we give great energy towards its mortification.
 4. Although repentance begins at regeneration, it is an attitude that continues the entire life of the Christian. As we sin we continue to be convicted by the Holy Spirit and we continue to repent.
 6. Unlike the lost man who must repent to receive judicial forgiveness, the Christian repents to receive parental forgiveness because God is now his loving Father who wants to free us from the hindrances that unconfessed sin brings.
- D. The Christian has a new attitude regarding prayer.
1. He sees prayer as a wonderful gift of communication with God.
 2. Prayer is at the very heart of our relationship with Christ. In prayer we experience Him personally and corporately.
 3. In prayer we express our reverence and adoration of God. In prayer we confess our sins. In prayer we declare our complete and total dependence upon God.
 4. One of the least attended services is corporate prayer.
- E. A new attitude towards the Word of God.
1. The Christian recognizes the transforming power of the Bible as the Holy Spirit applies it to our lives.
Hebrews 4:12 NAU - "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAU - "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
 2. We give ourselves to reading, studying, and meditation upon the Bible and hearing it preached for our edification. We have an appetite for the meat of the Word of God.

- F. The Christian has a new attitude towards other Christians.
1. We have been united to Christ and thus united with others who are in Christ.
 2. We are now a part of a new family. The Christian loves being around the people of God. He shares their same desires and loves the God they love. He prays for them and encourages them in greater pursuits of Christ and holiness.
 3. One of our identifying marks as Christians is our love for the brethren
Hebrews 6:10 NAU - "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name"
John 13:35 NAU - "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
1 John 3:14 NAU - "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death."
 4. These Christians had given themselves in love and service to one another, even in the midst of terrible persecution.
Hebrews 10:32-34 NAU - "But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,³³ partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one."
Hebrews 6:10 NAU - "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."
- G. The Christian has a new attitude towards this world.
1. The Christian's life is no longer characterized by the pursuit of the things of this world.
1 John 2:15-16 NAU - "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."
 2. The Christian now has his sights set on higher things.
Colossians 3:1-3 NAU - "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- H. The Christian has a new attitude regarding the church
1. Membership in a church does not make one a Christian, but the Bible does not recognize Christianity apart from the local church.
 2. One cannot read the New Testament and envision a Christian who is not connected to a particular church.
 3. The church becomes the place through which the Christian is disciplined and from which he conducts his service for Christ.

4. God's people are church people. Jesus loves His church and so should we.

Conclusion:

1. We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone. And yet, as Luther said, "The faith that saves is never alone." There are things that accompany our salvation.
2. There is outward evidence of the inward change.
1 John 5:13 NAU - "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."
3. Praise God for this amazing change.