

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF REPENTANCE

Text: Heb. 6:4-9

I. THE ASSERTION (vs. 4A, 6A)

- "It is _____ ...to renew them again to repentance"

II. THE _____ (vs. 4-6A)

A. They once had a _____ of Christ (or at least some kind of public identification w/ Him).

- _____:
 - They had an experiential _____ of the grace of God but had not actually received it themselves.
 - "Tasted" = tasting without _____.
- _____:
 - Five descriptions = what _____ to be true on the outside as observed by other people, at least for a while (Heb. 10:29, Jn. 15:2).
 - Vs. 6, "again" = seemed like they had repented before but had not.

B. They had since _____ away from their profession.

- "Fall away" = to sin by acting treacherously and unfaithfully against God.
- They had walked away from their profession and association:
 - Perhaps verbally.
 - At least _____ by going back to their old life and resuming their old ways.
- Observation: Since this "falling away" is caused by an internal hardening of the heart, only _____ knows when these conditions are met (Heb. 3:12-13).

III. THE _____ (vs. 6B)

- The reason it's no longer possible for apostates to repent is because they have completely and thoroughly _____ the Person and work of Christ:
 - They are _____ the Son of God to themselves afresh.
 - They _____ with the unbelieving Jewish leaders who had blasphemed the Spirit to reject and crucify Christ.
 - They are putting Him to an open _____.
 - They show by their apostasy their complete _____ to Christ and lack of concern that their defection does damage to Him and others.

- The ministry of the Holy Spirit = to _____ of Jesus and convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment; but they have despised His ministry to the point of no return.

IV. THE _____ (vs. 7-8)

- Verses 7-8 are essentially parallel to vs. 4-6.
 - They describe 2 groups of people as 2 kinds of plants growing out of 2 kinds of soil:
 - Similarity = both are well-tended and well-_____ by the Word and Spirit of God.
 - Difference = one brings forth _____; the other thorns and briars.
 - The fruitful plants from good soil = true _____.
 - The thorny plants from bad soil = _____ and false professors.
 - End to be burned = eternal _____ in hell.
 - Nigh (near) to cursing = they're not there yet, but almost.

V. THE DISTINCTION (vs. 9)

- This verse is addressed to a " _____ " not "they"; and they are called "beloved."
 - Before, the author was talking about a _____ of people in the church who were falling away or had already.
 - Now, he's talking to the church as a _____ (primarily saved people).
- Things that accompany salvation = in the context:
 - Fruit.
 - Genuine _____.
 - _____ from God.

VI. THE APPLICATIONS

- 2 important questions:
 - Which _____ are you in, the "you" or the "they"?
 - Analyze how are you responding to the light and grace of God.
 - Ask yourself, Who Christ to you?
 - Analyze your direction relative to God.
 - Who do you know who might be _____ to apostasy or in process of apostasy and what are you doing about it? (Jd. 1:22-23, Jas. 5:19-20)