

Sermon series: *Reminders for a Hard Season*

4/30/23 “Laziness & Our Future,” Hebrews 5:9, 11-6:12, NLT

**INTRODUCTION:** See Christians who don’t care whether they go to church, or who live contrary to Jesus and don’t seem to care?

Recipients not new Christians, expected to be mature.

3 kinds of people: unbelievers (rely on human reasoning & emotions), believers fully committed to Him, believers living in sin (not growing in relationship with God)

**MAIN IDEA: Keep growing as a Christian.** How? Here are three things to do.

### **I. First, evaluate ourselves (5:11-6:1-2)**

**2Cor 13:5, NLT:** Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves.

#### **A. are we spiritually dull?**

**Dull:** implies a laziness, hinders our ability to perceive or understand spiritual truths

1. not picking things up, unable to “hear”
2. not mastering basics (repentance from evil deeds or dead works, placing faith in God, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of dead, eternal judgment)
3. not able to teach others
4. not able to recognize right from wrong (**EX:** cohabitation, sex outside marriage, mocking, ridiculing, condemning)

**B. are we growing?** (1-1, LGs, studying Bible daily, serving, growing in humility...Jody Detrick: can always go lower)

**ILLUSTRATION:** trap of the social gospel

### **II. Second, listen to the warning (6:4-7)**

**A. repentance necessary for salvation** (Heb. 6:1, Matt. 4:17, Luke 15:7, Acts 2:38, et al)

1. repent = turn away from sin to God; part of salvation
2. even a believer sins & repents

#### **B. some believers go too far to be able to repent**

1. having been enlightened (MEV), shared in Holy Spirit, tasted good word of God & power of the age to come
2. but turn away from God, reject Jesus (fall away)

**Turn away:** make defection from, to fall aside, to slip aside, to deviate from the right path, to wander

**NOTE:** Apostasy means to turn away

**Theological apostasy:** reject Bible’s teachings (esp. about Jesus)

**Moral apostasy:** willingly break away from a personal relationship with Jesus & become enslaved again to sin

*(Fire Bible) Steps leading to apostasy:* 1) Believer becomes spiritually unconcerned, resistant, or rebellious; 2) Desires of world become greater than desire to follow Jesus; 3) Increasingly tolerant of own sin; 4) Hardened Heart; 5) Holy Spirit grieved, departs.

**ILLUSTRATION:** vs. 7

### **III. Finally, embrace our hope (9-12)**

#### **A. we are meant for better things that come with salvation**

**EX:** new creature, fruit, transformed mind, children of God, eternity

#### **B. God is just and remembers**

1. our work hard for Him
2. our love for Him shown by our caring for other believers

#### **C. we can make certain our hope—that we will be in paradise**

1. by continuing to love others as long as we live
2. by following the example of others having faith & endurance
3. by growing & not becoming spiritually dull, indifferent

**NOTE:** If you fear falling away, you haven’t committed unpardonable sin.

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:** Having trouble grasping the basics? Fearful? Uncaring? Know someone who doesn't care?

---