

How to Build the Perfect Church Series, 33
The Covenant of Grace Applied
“The Preparation of the Church for Usefulness
in an Age of Persecution”
Hebrews 5:9–6:20
Part 2, Hebrews 6:1-20

⁹And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰called by God as High Priest “*according to the order of Melchizedek,*” ¹¹of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. ^{6:1}Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God permits. ⁴For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame. ⁷For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briers, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned. ⁹But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, “*Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.*” ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, ¹⁸that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. ¹⁹This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, ²⁰where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NKJV)

I. The Peril of Spirit Immaturity in the Church (5:11-6:12)

A. The danger of spiritual dullness and its relationship to the church's disobedience and unfaithfulness (5:9-11)

1. Christ, the author of salvation to all who obey Him (9)
2. Learning to make use of Christ as our great high priest (10-11)

B. The relationship of spiritual dullness and immaturity to being hard of hearing (5:12-14)

1. Every church member's obligation to teach: (12a)
 - (a) the milk of first principles (12-13)
 - (b) meat for those skilled in the word about righteousness (13)
2. Growing to full maturity (14)
 - (a) the process of growing (14a)
 - (b) the product of growing (14b)

C. The necessity of a firm foundation for mature usefulness (6:1-3)

D. The doleful pessimism of an immature, fruitless, useless church (6:4-8)

E. The hopeful optimism of a better persuasion (6:9-12)

II. The Basis of Faithfulness in the Reliability of God and His Covenant Promise (6:13-20)

Grace Welcomes You

September 15, 2024

Give Reviving

Father for Thy, promised blessing,
Still we plead before Thy throne
For the times of, sweet refreshing,
Which can come from Thee alone
Blessed earnest, Thou hast given,
But in these we would not rest
Blessings still with, Thee are hidden,
Pour them forth and make us blest!

Prayer ascendeth to Thee ever,
Answer! Father, answer prayer
Bless oh bless each, weak endeavor,
Blood-bought pardon to declare
Wake Thy slumbering, children wake them,
Bid them to Thy harvest go
Blessings O our, Father make,
Round their steps let blessings flow

Let no people be forgotten,
Let Thy showers on all descend
That in one loud blessed anthem,
Millions may in triumph blend
Give reviving, give refreshing,
Give the looked-for Jubilee
To Thyself may, crowds be pressing,
Bringing glory unto Thee.

Give reviving, give refreshing,
Give the looked-for Jubilee
To Thyself may, crowds be pressing,
Bringing glory unto Thee.

Words by Albert Midlane alt by Chelsey Scott, Music by Chelsey Scott and Aaron Sands.
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Psalm 130 (From The Depths of Woe)

From the depths of woe I raise to Thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If Thou iniquities dost mark,
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark,
O who shall stand before Thee?
(Who shall stand before Thee?)
O who shall stand before Thee?
(Who shall stand before Thee?)

To wash away the crimson stain,
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas! Are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in Thy sight,
All must alike confess Thy might,
And live alone by mercy
(Live alone by mercy)
And live alone by mercy
(Live alone by mercy)

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On Him my soul shall rest, His word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort and my sweet support;
I wait for it with patience
(Wait for it with patience)
I wait for it with patience
(Wait for it with patience)

What though I wait the live-long night,
And 'til the dawn appeareth,
My heart still trusteth in His might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
And wait 'til God appeareth
(Wait 'til God appeareth)
And wait 'til God appeareth
(Wait 'til God appeareth)

Though great our sins and sore our woes
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our upmost need it soundeth.
Our Shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow
(All their sin and sorrow)
From all their sin and sorrow
(All their sin and sorrow)

Words: Martin Luther, Music: Christopher Miner ©1997 *Christopher Miner Music*.

Hast Thou Heard Him, Seen Him, Known Him?

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him, known Him?
Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him,
Joyful choose the better part.

Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

What has stripped the seeming beauty,
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth.

Not the crushing of those idols
With its bitter void and smart;
But the beaming of His beauty,
The unveiling of His heart.

Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

'Tis that look that melted Peter,
'Tis that face that Stephen saw,
'Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw:

Draw and win and fill completely,
Till the cup o'erflow the brim;
What have we to do with idols
Who have companied with Him?

Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

Captivated by His beauty, Worthy tribute haste to bring.
Let His peerless worth constrain thee,
Crown Him now unrivaled King.

Crown Him now unrivaled King.

Text: Ora Rowan, Music: Joel Littlepage ©2010 Joel Littlepage Music

Laden With Guilt and Full of Fears

Laden with guilt and full of fears,
I fly to Thee, my Lord,
And not a glimpse of hope appears,
But in Thy written Word
The volumes of my Father's grace
Does all my griefs assuage
Here I behold my Savior's face
In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies
The pearl of price unknown
That merchant is divinely wise
Who makes the pearl his own
Here consecrated water flows
To quench my thirst of sin
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,
Where wit and reason fail
My guide to everlasting life
Through all this gloomy vale
Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to Thy right hand.

Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to Thy right hand.

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: Sandra McCracken ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP)

We Will Feast In The House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion

We will sing with our hearts restored

He has done great things, we will say together

We will feast and weep no more

We Will Feast In The House of Zion

We will feast in the house of Zion

We will sing with our hearts restored

He has done great things, we will say together

We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire

He is the LORD our God

We are not consumed, by the flood

Upheld, protected, gathered up

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

In the dark of night, before the dawn

My soul, be not afraid

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

In the dark of night, before the dawn

My soul, be not afraid

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

Words and Music by Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore© 2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP)

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation,
Ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith
In His excellent Word
What more can He say
Than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge
To Jesus have fled?

"In every condition,
In sickness, in health;
In poverty's vale,
Or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad,
On the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand,
Shall My strength ever be."

“Fear not, I am with thee;
Oh be not dismayed
For I am thy God
And will still give thee aid
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee,
And cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous,
Omnipotent hand”

“When through the deep waters
I call thee to go
The rivers of sorrow
Shall not overflow
For I will be with thee,
Thy troubles to bless
And sanctify to thee
Thy deepest distress”

“When through fiery trials
Thy pathways shall lie
My grace all sufficient
Shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee;
I only design
Thy dross to consume
And thy gold to refine”

"Even down to old age
All My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal,
Unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs
Shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still
In My bosom be borne."

“The soul that on Jesus
Hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not
Desert to its foes
That soul, though all hell
Should endeavor to shake
I’ll never, no never,
No never forsake”

“That soul, though all hell
Should endeavor to shake
I’ll never, no never,
No never forsake”

Original words by "K" in Rippon's Hymns (1787). Tune by Joseph Funk.