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REFORMED BAPTIST  
CHURCH

Biblical Preaching & Reverent Worship

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## Who Falls Away? prt.2

Hebrews 6:4-8

‘Study to show thyself approved unto God...’ – 2 Timothy 2:15  
The importance of reading and learning God’s word is a vital part of both growing and also experiencing the blessing of belonging to God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This truth is one of the purposes why we wish to offer you these sermon notes which are to be used while listening to the sermon.

If you have any further questions relating to the sermon, sermon notes or would like to learn more about the ministry of Christ Reformed Baptist Church, please do not hesitate to contact

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## INTRODUCTION

Today we will consider the warnings of vv.5-8 and more specifically a correct understanding of who is described in the texts.

## HOW THEN ARE WE GOING TO CONSIDER THIS TEXT?

**First** Whoever it is that falls away, HOW is their irretrievable fall described in vv.6-8?

**Second** Review/examine the THREE most prominent theological interpretations of these passages:

- A. GENUINE BELIVER - LOSE of SALVATION.
- B. GENUINE BELIVER - LOSE of REWARDS.
- C. EVIDENCE of a PROFESSOR but NOT GENUINE BELIEVER

**Thirdly** – Demonstrate which of the three is the most reasonable and the correct one.

## FIRST: UNDERSTANDING the IRRETRIEVABLE FALL

**v.6** “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing (or since) (SINCE: NASB,ESV,NKJV) they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame.”

First Consideration: Can the text mean that there are individuals who (as described in vv.4-5 continue in some way or another in willful and willing sin and thereby forfeit all possibility of grace and renewal)?

*Sins of commission* (we knowingly and willingly do that we’re not supposed to do) *Sin of omission* (we knowingly and willingly don’t do that we’re supposed to do).

Does Scripture support such a view?

**1 John 1:8-10** “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

**Daniel 9:9** “To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;”

**Jeremiah 3:12-13** “Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD... Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God”

**Second Consideration:** STRONG 3856 ‘put to an open shame’ παραδειγματίζω paradeigmatízō “to set forth as a public example, make an example of”

This Greek phrase is used only one other place in the NT =

**Matt.1:19** “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a **public example**, was minded to put her away secretly.”

**Matt.26: 65-66** “Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

➤ ***Their Former Profession regarding NC Messiah / Gospel***

“Jesus is God’s Messiah, and my Justification rests upon His atonement alone”

➤ ***Their Apostate Profession:***

“Jesus is an imposter, and the Gospel is a cunningly devised fable”

“Jesus is the Messiah, and my Justification rests partially upon His atonement and partially upon my works”

➤ ***Their Renewed Profession regarding NC Messiah / Gospel***

“Jesus is God’s Messiah, and my Justification rests upon His atonement alone”

**SECOND: THREE most common interpretations**

***1. GENUINE BELIVER - LOSE of SALVATION.***

- Understanding of the descriptions does not necessitate reference to a genuine believer.
- Highly problematic with rest of Scripture (Isa.43:1-3,54:10;Jer.32:40;Matt.18:12-14;Jhn.3:16,3:36,5:24,6:35-40,6:47,10:27-30, 17:11,12,15;Rom.5:8-10,8:1,8:29-30,35-

39;1Cor.1:7-9, 10:13;2Cor.4:14,17;Eph.1:5,13,14,4:30;  
Col.3:3,4;1Thess.5:23,24;1Tim.4:18;  
Heb.9:12,15,10:14,12:28;1Pet.1:3-5,  
1Jhn.2:19,25,2:19,25,5:4,11-13,20;Jude1,24,25)

**Heb.9:12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

**Heb.12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

2. *GENUINE BELIVER - LOSE of REWARDS.*

- Is exegetically weak.
- Is not consistent with context.

3. EVIDENCE of a PROFESSOR but NOT GENUINE BELIEVER

- Is exegetically harmonious with all of Scripture.
- Is balanced in its grammatical and historical interpretation.
- Is respectfully sensitive to the immediate context.

**CLOSING THOUGHTS AND APPLICATION:**

**MARTIN LUTHER :**

“This doctrine (justification) is the head and the cornerstone. It alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves, and defends the church of God and without it the church of God cannot exist for one hour.”

“The article of justification is fragile. Not in itself, of course, but in us. I know how quickly a person can forfeit the joy of the Gospel.”

“Every week I preach justification by faith to my people, because every week they forget it.”