

Hebrews 6.9

Better Things Concerning You

What is it about the manner of life that allows accurate judgment to be made regarding a person's relationship with Christ? How can we decide with any confidence that someone is one of us or if they are outside? The Writer of Hebrews shifts gears here and offers comfort to his readers. He assures them that he is confident that they are indeed found in Christ. It is a bold statement considering the last 8 verses, but it is one that is merited. The lives of the Hebrews were consistent with saving faith. God had given them lives that honored Him and that gave convincing evidence that their testimony of Christ was founded on truth and not pretense. The author felt no hesitation to point out that they had passed the test, that their testimony has been weighed, judged and approved. This is a crucial skill, it helps us to accurately apply the gospel and what is more it helps us to correct sin in our lives, in the lives of our brethren and to guide the church to glorify Christ in the best manner possible.

I. BETTER GIFTS

a. Some partake of better gifts. There is a qualitative difference between spiritual things and merely physical. They come from a different source and serve a different purpose, honoring a different master.

Luke 18.9-14

b. True spiritual gifts are completely different from mere physical gifts and abilities

c. True spiritual obedience is completely different from mere outward obedience

d. True spiritual fruit is completely different from mere physical results and actions.

i. Being a church member is not saving grace

ii. Being a "good person" is not saving grace

iii. Being a religious or "spiritual" person is not saving grace

e.Trusting in the wrong things will be your undoing

Galatians 5.1-6

II. GOD'S GOOD GIFTS

a.God grants repentance to those who are His own

2Corinthians 7.8-12

b. God gives the gift of His own presence to those who are His own

Isaiah 57.15

c.God gives the fruit of the Spirit to those who are His own

Galatians 5.22-23

III. BETTER OUTCOMES

a.Some partakers of the gifts of God have better outcomes than others

Matthew 25.14-30

- b. All the gifts are of the same spirit
- c. He gives as He pleases
- d. The results are not the issue as much as the faithful use of that which is given

IV. SAVING GRACE AND FRUIT

- a. The promise of God is that those who are His own will be given saving grace, and the accompanying gifts;

Philippians 1:6–7

⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Titus 2.11-15

- b. but for some the fruitfulness is stunted by their sin and faithlessness

****Remember parable of the talents****

- c. Fruitfulness is LEARNED behavior

Titus 3:14

¹⁴ And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

- d. The works are evidence, NOT saving

Romans 4.4-8

V. INSPECTION TIME

- a. It is our duty to examine ourselves and make sure of the presence of these saving graces, as well as monitoring the condition of our fruit.

2Corinthians 13.5-6

- b. The response for the discovery of sin is simple... repentance.

Lamentations 3:40

*⁴⁰ Let us search out and examine our ways, And
turn back to the Lord;*

- c. And if the result is positive, then stir up love and good works all the more.

Hebrews 10.24-25

2Peter 1.5-15