

Sermon Outline

Apostasy and Perseverance

Hebrews 6:4-12

Introduction: God's purpose in sending His word never fails

It will either lead to repentance or hardening

2 Corinthians 7:8-10: godly sorrow vs. earthly sorrow

Isaiah 55:10-11, 2 Corinthians 2:4, 15-16, Isaiah 6:8-10

Apostasy (6:4-8)

Controversial verses (varied interpretations)

Apparent contradictions with John 6:39-40, 10:27-30,

1 Peter 1:3-5, Romans 5, 8, Hebrews 6:13-20

Context (6:1) – a warning to the spiritually sluggish and immature

Who is the subject of verses 4-6?

Have once been enlightened

Have tasted of the heavenly gift

Have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit

Have tasted the good word of God

and the powers of the age to come

Have fallen away

The impossibility to restore these individuals

The absurdity and severity of crucifying Christ again

Moses and the Rock (1 Cor 10:1-4, Num 20:7-12)

Christ's once-for-all sacrificial atoning death

An illustration from agriculture (6:7-8)

God's sheep will heed the warning of their Shepherd

Perseverance (6:9-12)

Better things (good works) that accompany salvation

Understanding faith alone and works

Encouraging hope for an eternal promise