**“Hang In There”**

Being a Christian in a fallen world is not always easy at all times. There will be pressures from this fallen world that will cause some of us to rethink and possibly decide to renounce Christ. However, there is a problem with renouncing him because it comes at a cost. The cost is the gift of eternal salvation that you forfeit when you renounce him. Let’s Get Into The Word!

**Scripture Reading: John 16:33 (NKJV) says this,** “33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**Fallaway** - made while moving away from the basket in basketball a fallaway jump shot. Or to withdraw friendship or support. Or to renounce one's faith. Or to diminish gradually in size. Or to drift off a course.

**Hebrews 6:1-20 (NKJV) says this,** “6 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,** 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits. **4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if 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.**

These verses are referring to believers who believed and received the gift of salvation through belief in their hearts and confession made about Christ out of their mouths **(Romans 10:9-10).** They were enlightened - Freed from ignorance and misinformation. Received the heavenly gift, who is the Holy Spirit. Then became partakers and therefore witnesses of the gifts of the spirit (Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of Healings, Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Different Kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues). All because of the blessed word of God that they believed. If they decide to reverse or renounce their belief in Christ because of the pressures of the world. Do so with the full knowledge that they are crucifying Jesus in public and putting him to shame. By renouncing their belief in Christ. Therefore, by killing their belief in Christ through unbelief. They also kill their salvation and all other promises in Christ through unbelief. Remember, the precious promises of God are to the believers God not the unbelievers of God. Therefore, these believers can’t be persuaded to repent. Why? Because their minds are made up and even though they received, experienced, partaked of the good gifts of God. In their minds it is not a good enough reason. To keep on putting up with the trials and tribulations of being a Christian. Have simply thrown in the towel and no matter what any brother or sister in the Lord says to them. They will not repent!

**7 For 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; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.**

This example of earth, rain, herbs and cultivated. Is referring to folk who received the word of God in (**seed form**). Then took the word of God and planted (**cultivated**) it their hearts **(earth)**  by faith. Then overtime (**rain**) and with great expectation reap a harvest (**herbs**). The blessings from God you will receive because you done what was expected by God with his word. However, if you hear the word of God and then sow doubt and unbelief, which is (thorns & briers). This harvest of doubt and unbelief will be rejected and cursed by God. How? By throwing it into the fire to burned (Lake Of Fire), according to **Revelation 21:8 (NKJV) which says this,** 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. 10 For 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. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, **18 that 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. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

These scriptures are referring to those and us today who are talking and thinking about renouncing their faith in Christ because of trials, tribulations, and persecutions. Are encouraged to hang in there through faith and patience. Knowing that by the testimony of others who by there faith and patience obtained the promises of God. Should encourage and inspire us to fight the good fight of faith and give no place to doubt and unbelief no matter how hard and difficult things may get. But remember according to **2 Corinthians 4:8-18 which says this,** “8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you. 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. Amen!

I Love You, Be Blessed!

Pastor Jimmy