

The Letter to the
Hebrews



Believer's Maturity

- Hebrews 6 requires careful study to understand one of the more difficult passages in the Bible.
- It relates to a believer's maturity and eternal security.
- Jesus is the anchor of our soul and the reason faith perseveres.

**Believers Must Mature
Beyond the Basics**

Hebrews 6:1-8

Grow in Christian Walk

- In this passage we are prodded to grow in our Christian walk.
- We are also warned of the dangers of remaining in immaturity.
- The author rebukes the readers because they are immature in their understanding.

Grow in Christian Walk

- He urges them to graduate beyond elementary teachings into maturity.
- He is concerned with their willingness to stay in an immature state.
- He wants them to grow beyond the basics (dead works, faith toward God, resurrection of the dead, judgment).

Grow in Christian Walk

- The author exhorts his readers to depend on God to move beyond these foundational teachings.
- He even declares that they will only move on “if God permits.” Remember that God did not permit the disobedient Israelites in the Promised Land.

**Can We Lose
Our Salvation?**

Fallen Away?

- The author has been addressing believers since the beginning of the letter.
- But he now says that these believers “have fallen away.”
- He uses the Greek word *parapitō* which is used only once in the New Testament.

Fallen Away?

- Some say it means “apostasy” which means a turning away from God. However, it appears to be the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word *ma'al* which means to act unfaithfully.
- John 1:12 - “But to all who did receive (Jesus), who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

Fallen Away?

- Once we become a child of God, do we stop being His child if we fail to mature?
- 1 John 5:11 - “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”
- How long is eternal life?

Repentance Necessary?

- Repentance is included in believing. Faith and repentance are two sides of a coin.
- The Greek word for repentance (*metanoia*) actually means to change one's mind.
- The purpose of the Gospel of John is to bring us to faith, yet John never once uses the word repent.

Repentance Necessary?

- Repentance is needed in the Christian life in relation to specific sins (2 Cor. 7:9).
- But this repentance has nothing to do with salvation (Matthew 21:28-30).
- Genuine faith includes repentance, and genuine repentance includes faith.

Can You Lose Salvation?

- According to verse 6, why is it impossible for these believers to be restored?
- Does this mean they have lost their salvation?
- The focus of this passage is on repentance for a lack of spiritual growth not salvation.

Can You Lose Salvation?

- Verse 7 thistles are burned.
- A common farming practice was to burn unproductive land - to cleanse it.
- Fallen away - might also mean loss of opportunities for ministry, loss of any blessings in this life, and even premature physical death.

Loss of Rewards

For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

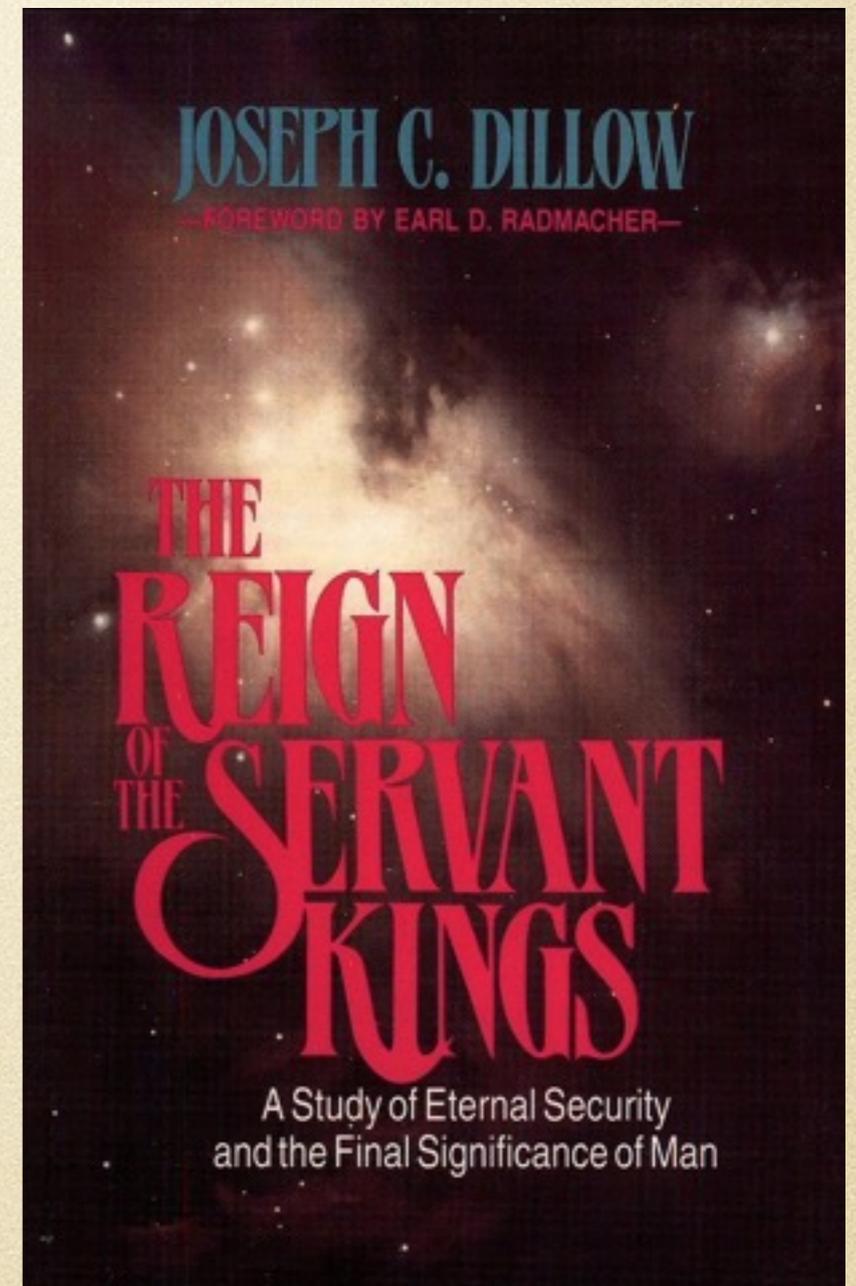
Loss of Rewards

If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Loss of Rewards

- This means loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ:
 - Romans 14:10-12
 - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10



Loss of Rewards

- These chapters are comparing these believers to the disobedient Israelites.
- God did not allow them to enter the Promised Land. This is about repentance.
- Verse 7 uses an analogy of a plot of land that receives rain: produce useful crop or produce worthless thorns and thistles.

**Believers Must Root
Themselves in Hope**

Hebrews 6:9-12

Hold Onto Hope

- After some difficult words, the author immediately comforts his readers by calling them “beloved” and assuring them of their good works and salvation.
- They have a certain hope in Jesus Christ.
- He affirms their salvation because God is not unjust and cannot lie.

Hold Onto Hope

- The invitation is to hold on to the anchor our hope which is in Jesus Christ.
- Hope means the settled conviction and confident expectation of good based on the promises of God.
- Hope is a strong cord anchoring us to heaven.

Hold Onto Hope

- He asked them to have earnestness (diligence) to make their hope sure - to have “the full assurance until the end.”
- He also tells them to be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- Young Christians: find a spiritual mentor.

Hold Onto Hope

- Finally, he warns them not be be sluggish (to become lazy).
- This is the same word found in 5:11 that talks about those who are slow to learn.
- We need to make sure we aren't drifting in the Christian life (Hebrews 1).

The Certainty of God's Promise

Hebrews 6:13-20

Promise to Abraham

- Abraham is mentioned here to show the reliability of God's promises.
- God made the promise to Abraham and supported it with His own personal oath.
- God's Word is His promise to us, and He added an oath to His Word.

Promise to Abraham

- Human beings use oaths to back up their statements because a promise of a human being is not enough for trust.
- They swear by something greater than themselves.
- Our hope is in the sure promises of God the Father.

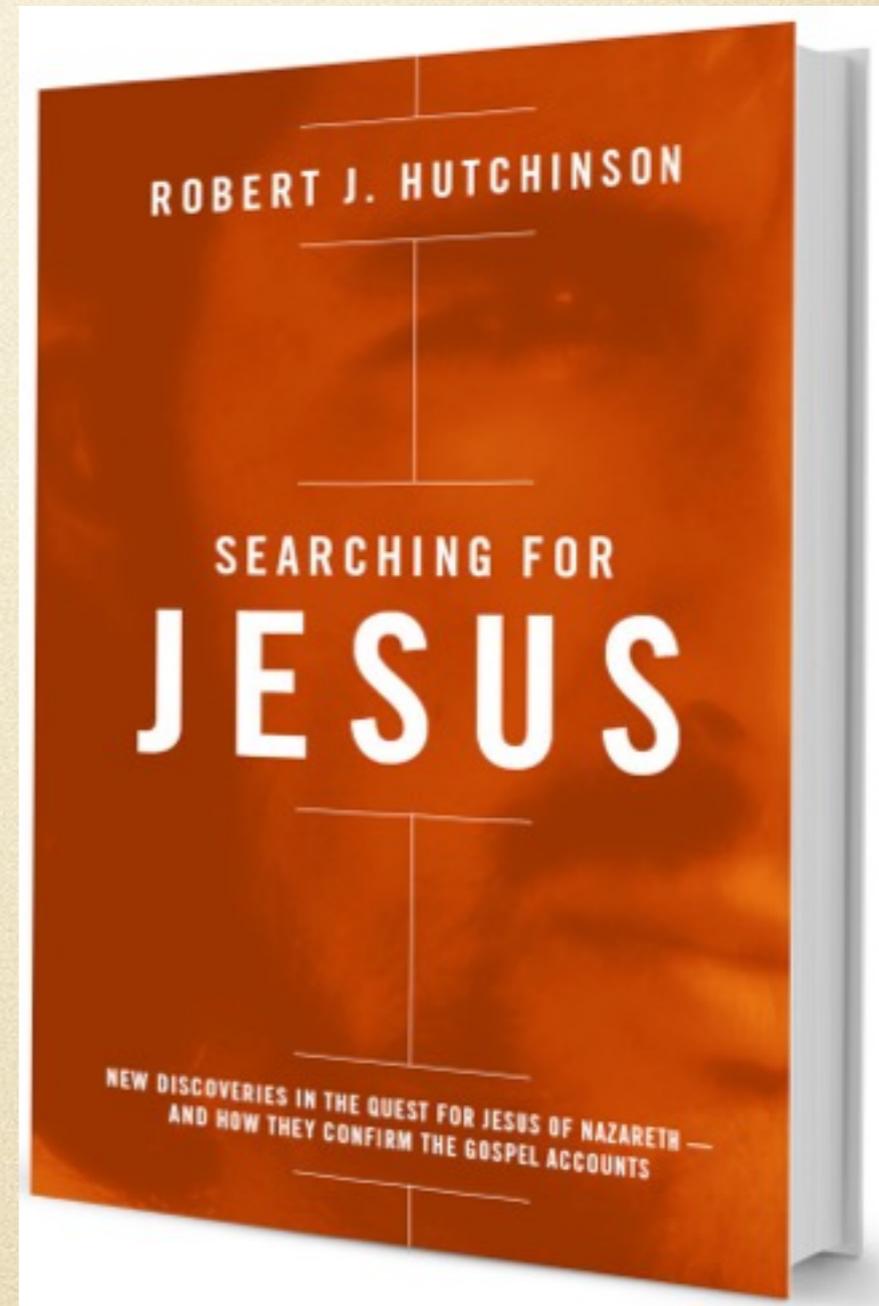
Qualifications of Jesus

- Our hope is also found in the safe and secure anchor of Jesus, our High Priest.
- We have a firm basis for our hope because of His finished work on the cross.
- He has gone as “a forerunner on our behalf” and became a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**Searching
for Jesus**

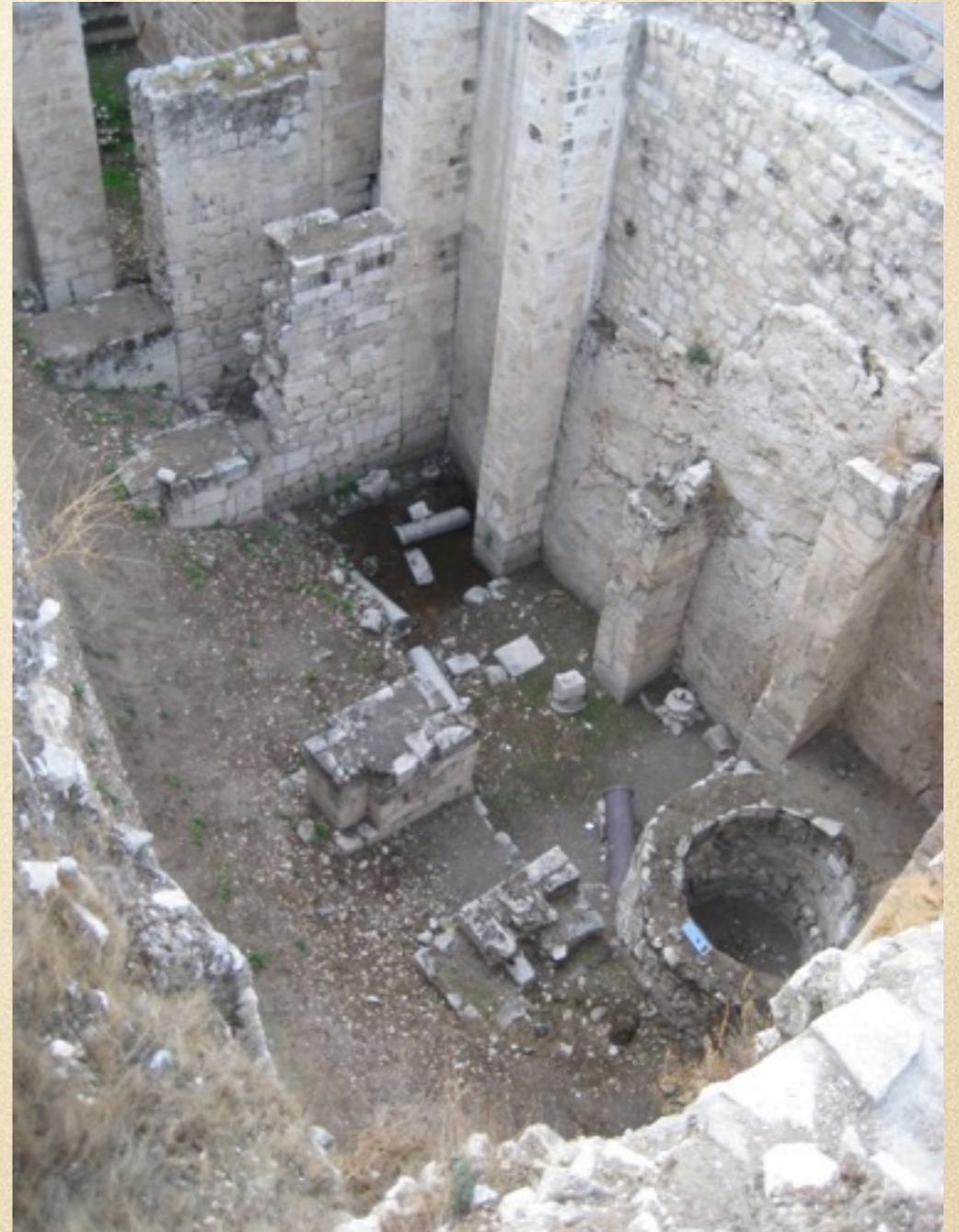
Searching for Jesus

- Skeptics and scholars have been debunking Jesus.
- New discoveries show they should have been skeptical of their skepticism.



John was an Eyewitness

- John was obviously an eyewitness because he gets the details right about the pool of Bethesda.
- There were two pools and five porticoes.



House in Nazareth

- Skeptics doubted that Nazareth even existed during the time when Jesus was alive.
- Excavated these 1st century homes in Nazareth.



Jesus Boat

- In 1986, archaeologists uncovered a fishing boat from the 1st century.
- Hull was made of oak and cedar, found a coin, C14 tests.



Capernaum

- Archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of Capernaum.
- This is the synagogue that was built on top of the one that existed when Jesus was there.



Capernaum

- This is a view of what it must have looked like in the time of Jesus.
- We can see what many believe was Peter's home.



Capernaum

- Many believe this was Peter's home that later became a house church.
- Plaster, words on the walls.



Who Was Jesus?



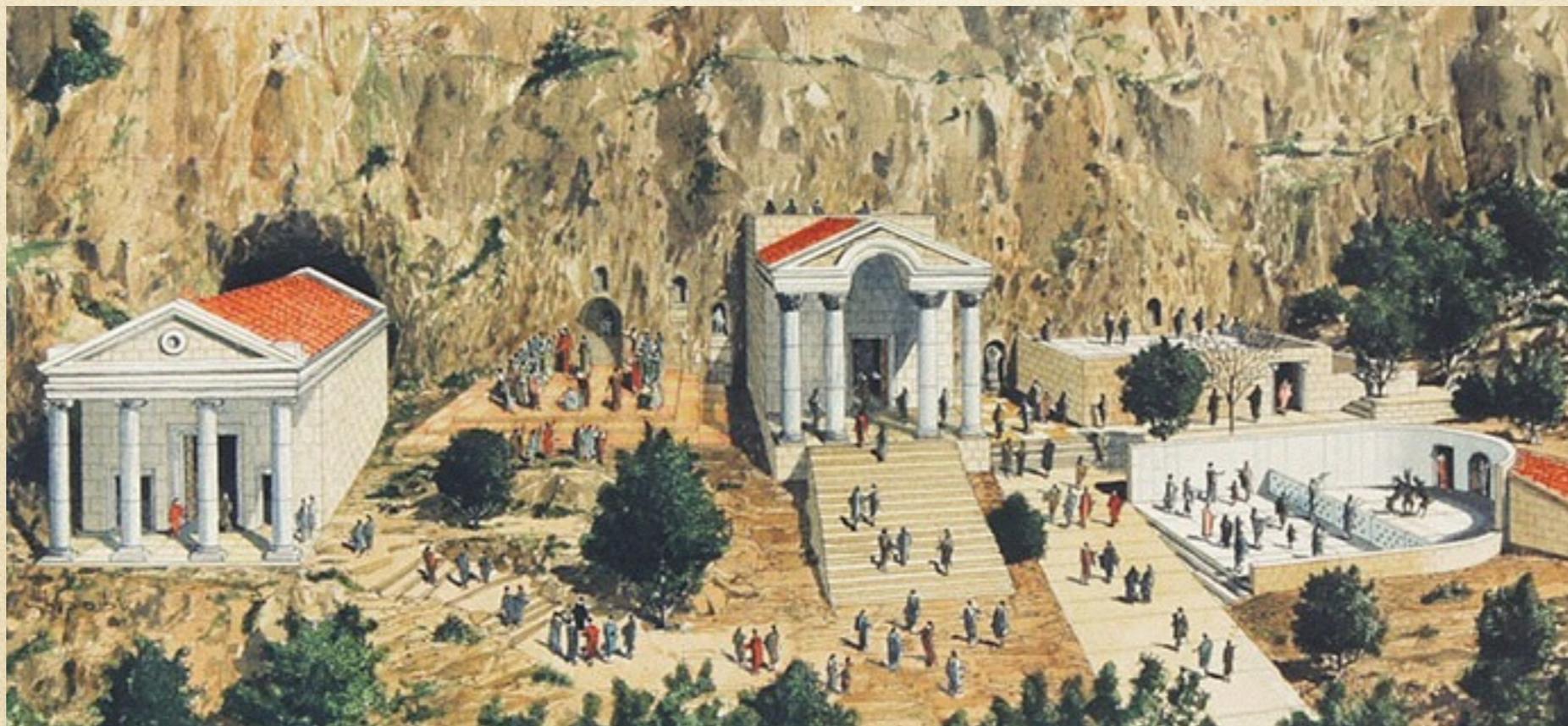
- Jesus takes his disciples to Caesarea Philippi.

- It was a pagan shrine to Pan.



Who was Jesus?

- In the pagan place, Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks his disciples, who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15-18)



Suffering Messiah

- Skeptics said that early Christians made up the idea of a suffering Messiah to fit the reality that Jesus was killed.
- The 1st century Gabriel Revelation stone shows they did not invent it.



Risen Savior

- After Jesus rose from the dead, many people had encounters with Him.
- Tabgha, a cove on the Sea of Galilee, is where Jesus appeared to His disciples and cooked them fish.



