

# What is the saddest thing in the world?

- Poverty?
- Disease?
- Slavery?
- Child abuse?

But these can obey  
the gospel and be  
eternally blessed  
(Lk.16)

# Even sadder . . . Christian who falls away

- Hb.3:12-14
  - 12: Beware! Look out . . . (12:25)
  - 13: Exhort! (13:22)
  - 14: Explanation (For...) – we are partakers of Christ if . . .

**I. We have become partakers**

# Partakers: sharing, partners in...

- Heavenly call: 3:1
  - Invitation from heaven to people on earth to live in heaven (12:25).
  - Ph.3<sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

# Partakers: sharing, partners in...

- Heavenly calling: 3:1
- Christ: 3:14
  - “Of His mind, and of the salvation procured by Him” – Th.
  - 1 Co.2<sup>16</sup> For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

# Partakers: sharing, partners in...

- Heavenly calling: 3:1
- Christ: 3:14
- Holy Spirit: 2:4
  - Benefit by His gifts, 2:4
  - Learn from His teaching, 3:7

# Partakers: sharing, partners in...

- Heavenly calling: 3:1
- Christ: 3:14
- Holy Spirit: 2:4
- Chastening, discipline: 12:8, 10
  - Illegitimate receive no inheritance

I. We have become partakers

II. If we hold fast

## IF: if indeed, if only...

- Calvinist sees 'partakers' but overlooks 'if'
  - Without 'if' there are no conditions
  - Without conditions, only two alternatives –

universalism

partiality

# WE: His people

- God did His part (calling; Christ; Holy Spirit) –
- “What God has done is absolute; but man’s appropriation of the gift must be by continuous effort” – Westcott. [Col.3:3...5]
  - 13: plan includes teaching and warnings
  - 12: unbelief
  - 13: exhort
  - 14: hold fast
- Ultimate responsibility for our salvation rests on us.

# Hold Fast

- “Don’t have to hold out, hold on, hold up, or hold anything” – Falwell
- Contradicts Scripture *and* his own church –
  - Jonathan Edwards
  - A. T. Robertson: These faltering believers (some even apostates) began with loud confidence and profession of loyalty. And now?
  - Hebrews: *hold fast* – 3:6, 14; 4:14; 10:23
    - *Hold* is opposite of *drifting* (2:1)

I. We have become partakers

II. If we hold fast

**III. Beginning of our  
confidence**

# Our original confidence, ESV

- They began well; devoted to gospel; now some were starting to fall away. 10:32-34
- **Confidence**: steadiness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution...firm trust, assurance (Th.).
- 10:35, warning: *do not cast away*... throw away...

I. We have become partakers

II. If we hold fast

III. Beginning of our confidence

**IV. Steadfast to the end**

# Hb.6:11

Past professions are nothing without steadfastness: unwavering and persistent, *abiding*.

- Word, 2:2-3
- Hope, 6:19
- We decide, 3:14

Hebrews: danger of apostasy –

- Partakers of Spirit might fall away, 6:4-6
- Fail of grace of God, 12:15
- Draw back to perdition, 10:38-39

# Steadfast to the end

12:1 – <sup>1</sup>lay aside . . . <sup>2</sup>run with endurance

12:2 – finisher (perfecter) of our faith – one who brings something to a successful conclusion.

- 1 Pt.1:9

At His coming He will complete what His death began. He is not a quitter...

I. We have become partakers

II. If we hold fast

III. Beginning of our confidence

IV. Steadfast to the end

V. Why do so many fail?

# Christians fail because . . .

1. Neglect, 2:2-3.
2. Deceived, 3:13.
3. Stubborn, 3:7-4:11.
  - Prov.9:8; 15:12.
  - 2 Sm.12 / 1 Kg.1
4. Lazy, 6:12.
5. Forget, 10:32-35
6. Quit, 10:36 [Ac.7:38-42 . . . 51-53]
7. Priorities, 12:16-17