

HEBREWS 6 vs 1

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¹ **Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ** / leave behind...the introductory and elementary and pre-school A, B, C's; all the basic things of God and teaching of the Messiah; the Deliverer sent by God.

Leaving all that behind...

let us go on to perfection / let us advance... and remember: the writer of the book of Hebrews tells us the way of ceremony and creed, or **the better way -- the way of Jesus.**

He says, Let us leave some things behind us. You don't have your tricycle still, do you? Now when we hear that word **perfection**... I hope the first thing that comes to our mind is always: our Father in heaven! We are to become like Him; and if we don't know how, Hebrews 12 says: He knows how. We pray: Your will be done, our Father's will is that we are made in the image of His Son. This verse is talking about growing, and maturing in favor with God and man. May we never look at ourselves and think we have almost arrived. No, not here. Keep our eyes on Jesus. When we see Him some day, then we will be like Him.

Until then, let us advance...

let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation / let us grow up; become like our Father in heaven. What are these three foundational principles that are in focus? Our relation with God; and with those He called in the Church He is building; and in our own life. We are supposed to grow up. Starting with the foundation...

of **metanoia** from dead works / from slavish acts of rules and heartless sacrifices. What is **metanoia**? It isn't that strange word – **repentance**. **meta** = **change** + **noia** = **mind**; it means: **change your mind**... **reconsider**, think differently; relearn some things; unlearn other things... like anybody going to school.

John Wycliffe, the morning star of reformation, said, Anything more about that word repentance is abuse, power-grabbing and superstitious. God is not a windup clock. He watches how His children respond to Him; and, in order to keep His agenda: making us in His image, He rethinks some things. As we have to rethink, until we think correctly. And if my Father in heaven can **rethink**... then, so can I! That means it's okay if I don't always get it right the first time.

The writer continues...

not laying again the foundation, but reconsidering dead works, and of faith toward God / our Father. **Peter says in his last words to the Church: add to our faith**. So, we see Peter even grew up.



² **Leaving behind the doctrine of baptisms** / John the Baptist said, he baptized in water, but the One coming after him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire! so: Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire? Or just sprinkled or dunked? It's interesting, we renew our faith daily. We take communion regularly. We renew our marriage vows; but we don't renew our baptism to the Lord?

And let us leave behind the teaching on...

the laying on of hands / what is that? It's the ordaining and commissioning in the Church, where leadership says, having done all they can do, having given the best instruction they know how, they commit the rest to God. It's not hocus pocus!

John Wycliffe, the early reformer, said, If we as clerics really had that kind of power in our hands -- the power to absolve sins! Or to change bread into the body of Jesus -- and we weren't using it daily to lift the guilt and burden of the thousands we pass by; what do you imagine God will do with that one?

John Calvin and those who followed condemned any ritual that does not follow the word of God; but rather, turns into superstitious abuse -- the Church gone wild... doing the hocus pocus thing! Augustine, in the late-300s said, The Lord has bound together His society of new people, **by sacraments ... very few in number;** very easy to observe; very excellent in meaning; and he named: baptism and the table of the Lord... adding, and any other approved by the Scripture. But Augustine doesn't state any other as approved by scripture.

Leaving behind the principles of the resurrection of the dead / Paul says, If Christ be not risen from the dead, our faith is vain... and we're damn fools; not able to enjoy life; just playing at what? which is exactly what Dr. Gene Scott would say as he presented our confidence in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Most people haven't spent five hours or five minutes... considering any of the theories of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said, Don't argue with those people. They have what Moses and the prophets recorded. Even if the dead came back to life, some people won't believe. There is no reason to reset the foundations: **He is risen!** Move on....

and of eternal judgment / yes! God will someday judge the world; so get on His side; stand on the finished work of Jesus Christ. We'll be safe. Like Isaac Watts, the hymnist wrote:

Oh God our Help in ages past; Our Hope for years to come;
Our Shelter from the stormy blast; And our Eternal home!

Get on His side and get excited! Advance; don't stop! Keep going! And the writer to the Hebrews says...

³ **And this will we do, as God permits** / we will advance to perfection...to our Father in heaven. To HIM... be the glory!