



LIVING GRACE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

***“A Pastoral Warning”***  
**Sermon Date: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

***The New City Catechism—Lord’s Day 9***

***What Does God Require in the First, Second, and Third Commandments?***

*First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God’s name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works. (Deuteronomy 6:13-14)*

**Scripture**

***Hebrews 6:1-8 (ESV)***

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup>and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And this we will do if God permits. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup>and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. <sup>7</sup>For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. <sup>8</sup>But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

## **Understanding and Applying**

1. **Foundation:** Describe the general idea of each 'elementary doctrine'. Why are they *foundational* for a proper understanding of the Christian faith?
  - **Repentance and faith** (Habakkuk 2:4; Acts 20:21)
  - **Instructions about baptisms** (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4)
  - **The laying on of hands** (Numbers 27:23; Acts 19:6; 1 Timothy 4:14)
  - **The resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment** (Daniel 12:2; John 5:25-29)
2. **Context:** The Hebrew Christians are being tempted to go back to the Old Covenant but based on your answers from the previous question, why is Jesus better or the fulfillment of each elementary doctrine (each doctrine has an Old Testament counterpart)?
3. **Warning:** What do the apostate (those who depart from the faith) and the true saint have in common (vv. 4-6; Matthew 7:22, 13:20-21 and 23; Acts 8:13; 1 John 2:19)? How do the apostate and the true saint differ (vv. 7-8; John 3:3-5; Hebrews 3:12)?
  - In your own words, why is this passage a reality check for people *in* the church?
4. **Prayer:** How does this passage shape your prayers for those who *seem* to be turning away from the elementary doctrines of Christ?