HAVING DONE ALL
THESE THINGS:
COMMENTS ON
HEBREWS 6:4-6A

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Three Schools of
Thought on
Hebrews 6:4-6a
False Christians

Former Christians

Fruitless Christians
4 It is impossible for the ones once having been enlightened, having tasted and of the gift of the heavenly and sharers having become of Spirit Holy and good having tasted of God word powers and of coming age and having fallen away, again to renew into repentance ...

| Αδύνατον | γὰρ τοὺς ἅπαξ φωτισθέντας, γευσάμενους τε τῆς δωρεᾶς τῆς ἐπουρανίου καὶ μετόχους γεννηθέντας Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ καλὸν γευσάμενους Θεοῦ ῥῆμα δυνάμεις τε μέλλοντος αἰώνος καὶ παραπεσόντας, πάλιν ἀνακαινίζειν εἰς μετάνοιαν ... | [It is] impossible for the [ones] once having been enlightened, having tasted and of the gift of the heavenly and sharers having become of Spirit Holy and good having tasted of God word powers and of coming age and having fallen away, again to renew into repentance ... |
The Writer is Referring to Christians

- There is no conditional in v. 6 qualifying the 'fall away'.
- The expression "having been enlightened" (φωτισθέντας [photisthantas]) is used in Hebrews 10:32 to describe his Christians readers.
- They are described as "having tasted of the heavenly gift" and of "the good word of God and of the powers of the age to come."
A Christian Cannot Lose His Eternal Life

The doctrine that a Christian cannot lose his eternal life is sometimes called "eternal security," "perseverance of the saints," "preservation of the saints," and "once-saved-always-saved."
PERISH: It is not God's will that we perish. Matt. 18:12-14; John 6:37-39

PRAYER: Jesus prayed for us. John 17:15, 20

POWER: God is powerful: Nothing can separate us (from without). John 10:28-29

PRESERVATION: God preserves us from ultimately falling (from within). 1 Thes. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12

PRESENT TENSE: Eternal life is present tense. John 3:36; John 5:24; John 6:47; 1 John 5:11-13

PREDESTINATION: We're predestined to adoption and conformation. Eph 1:5; Rom. 8:29

PROTECTION: We're sealed by the Spirit. Eph. 1:13; 4:30

PROMISE: The Spirit is an earnest or guarantee. Eph. 1:14

PERFECT: Christ's work is perfect. Heb. 7:25; 9:12; 10:14
How is it possible for a Christian to fall away?
What does being renewed to repentance mean?
How is it that it is impossible to renew such ones to repentance?
How can it be that those Christians can be described as those who "crucify again for themselves the Son of God, put Him to open shame ... rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned"?