

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

HEBREWS 6:1-3

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: It is good to know the basics from the Old Testament and to often refresh your knowledge of them. But remember that they are progressive in revelation and can only be understood in God's Son, Jesus, to whom the Scriptures of the Old Testament point. They are shadows and types of the reality that is found in Him.

YOU MUST DIVORCE. Divorce means to leave, move beyond, or put away. "It (divorce) is wrong in relation to marriage but mandatory in relation to leaving Judaism for Christ. The unbelieving Jew must completely divorce himself from his former religion before he can be saved." John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews, p. 137. (**Hebrews 6:1, Acts 4:12, fn 4:12, I Timothy 2:5, 6, fn 2:5, 6, John 14:6, fn 14:6[1st]**) *What do you need to divorce or leave to go on to maturity in your personal relationship with Jesus Christ?*

YOU NEED TO MATURE. Repentance from dead works (acts that lead to death) is turning from evil to God but was incomplete and immature because the sinner still felt guilty. But by coming to Christ in faith, we essentially give up trying to pay for our own sins and trust the work that Christ has done for us. "Why did God choose *faith* as the means by which we receive justification? It is apparently because *faith* is the one attitude of heart that is the exact opposite of depending on ourselves." Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 730. For the New Testament believer, repentance and faith always go together. (**Hebrews 6:2, Acts 18:24-26, fn 18:24-26, Acts 19:1-4, fn 19:2-4, Acts 20:21, Hebrews 9:12-14, fn 9:12-14**) *How could your confession of sin and faith compliment each other?*

YOU NEED TO DEPEND ON CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE. The New Testament contains the foundation for faith in Christ. The Old Testament contains the beginnings of that foundation, but Christ is "the end of the beginning". (**Hebrews 6:3, fn 6:3, I John 5:13-15, fn 5:14, 15, John 6:35-40, fn 6:39, John 1:11-17, fn 1:10, 11, fn 1:17**) *How could the Hebrews (and you) better understand God?*

As you daily study the truths about Jesus, in what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit revealing to you God's majesty and glory?