



THE BATTLE OF LIÈGE

WITH PASTOR ERIC LUDY

THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE!

We are a family of believers that cling tightly to the Word of Scripture and enjoy the heritage of a faith centered upon the majesty of Jesus Christ and His work upon the Cross. If you love the words of Scripture, worship Jesus Christ, and prefer Truth spoken with thunderous straightforwardness, then you will probably enjoy it here.

Discover why we focus so much on the centrality of Jesus Christ and learn more about the Church at Ellerslie, our Ellerslie Discipleship Training, and what we believe ... at [Ellerslie.com/church](https://www.ellerslie.com/church) or scan the QR code below with your phone.



ANNOUNCEMENTS + SCHEDULE:

- **Daily Thunder** – join us in the chapel M-F at 8:15am for teaching, prayer, and worship
- **Wednesday Night Prayer** – 7:00pm

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR:

- Semester students: June 12–July 17
- Cambridge 70 Event (for men): August 26-28

THE BATTLE OF LIÈGE

REMEMBERING HIS MERCY

And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

1 Chronicles 21:13

TWO DIRECTIONS FOR A FALL

INTO the hand of the Lord & AWAY from the hand of the Lord

INTRODUCING LIÈGE, BELGIUM

a special place marked for attack

THERE are some spots in Europe which have been the scenes of frequent warfare, as for instance, the kingdom of Belgium, which might be called the battle field of Europe. War has raged over the whole of Europe, but in some unhappy spots, battle after battle has been fought. So there is scarce a passage of Scripture which has not been disputed between the enemies of truth and the upholders of it; but this passage (Hebrews 6:4-6), with one or two others, has been the special subject of attack. This is one of the texts which have been trodden under the feet of controversy; and there are opinions upon it as adverse as the poles, some asserting that it means one thing, and some declaring that it means another.

Charles Spurgeon

March 23, 1856

THE EVIL WARLORDS

Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin

A single death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic.

Joseph Stalin

ORDER NO. 227 - JUNE 27, 1943

"Not one step backward!"

Panic makers and cowards must be liquidated on the spot. Not one step backward without orders from higher headquarters! Commanders...who

abandon a position without an order from higher headquarters are traitors to the Motherland.

Joseph Stalin

HITLER'S OPERATION LÜTTICH - AUGUST 7, 1944

"Not one step backward!"

TWO SORTS OF LEADERS

- *Ones that kill the fearful on the spot, and those that correct the fearful on the spot*
- *Ones that find every excuse to reject, and those that find every reason to rescue*
- *Ones that find every reason to condemn, and those that find every reason to restore*

WHAT SORT OF LEADER IS CHRIST?

Is He one that seeks excuses to destroy or one that will go to whatever means necessary to rescue?

A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench . . .

Isaiah 42:3

THE SMOKING WICK?

"A smoking flax represents a state in which there is a little good" – Charles Spurgeon

WHAT IF HIS SOLDIERS "STEP BACKWARD" DUE TO FEAR?

What would God do about such a mistake?

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

Isaiah 35:3-4

HAS GOD ISSUED AN ORDER NO. 227?

Does He bear similarity with Hitler and Stalin?

VISITING LIÈGE

Perusing the battle site where many a soldier has died (Hebrew 6:4-6)

. . . though He (Jesus) was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. // Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.

Hebrews 5:8-14; 6:1-9

LET'S GET OUR OBSERVATIONS OUT ON THE TABLE

1. *The writer is explaining the mysteries of the Old Testament and how they showcase Jesus (Hebrew 5:8-9)*
2. *The writer reaches the topic of Melchizedek and acknowledges that he still has much to say about this topic, but since his audience is "dull of hearing" he will need to restrain himself from continuing on. (Hebrews 5:10-11)*
3. *The writer pivots right here on this point of "dull hearing" –seemingly moved by a holy passion to see his audience not remain "dull of hearing" any longer. (Hebrews 5:12)*
4. *The writer enters into an entirely new line of thinking that centers around his audience breaking out of their immature, baby-like state of development. (Hebrews 5:12-6:2)*
5. *The writer declares that, God-willing, they will be moving out of this "baby-state" and onward in their maturity. (Hebrews 6:3)*
6. *With classic parental candor, the writer uses what could be termed a "parental shock-statement" to stir his audience to take their rare opportunity as children in the Kingdom of Heaven more seriously. (Hebrews 6:4-6)*

7. *The writer reinforces his "P.S.S." by reminding his audience that being unfruitful ground leads to every evil while being fruitful ground is the entire point of Christ's redemption. (Hebrews 6:7-8)*
8. *The writer concludes that, in spite of his rather dramatic P.S.S., that he in no way expects them to "fall away", but is merely reminding them of the gloriously reality and potential of walking this Narrow Way. (Hebrews 6:9)*

WHAT IS A PARENTAL SHOCK-STATEMENT?

Why are they utilized? How do they work?

Parental Shock-Statement – Sample #1

To the kid that is moving his peas around on his plate:

Look! There are loads of kids that don't have food to eat tonight. Haitian kids usually have food to eat once every four days. If you choose not to eat this food, you will starve. This is the only food you are going to get. If I were you, I would deeply appreciate what you have and demonstrate your thankfulness by eating every pea on your plate. You are showing tremendous disrespect to all those starving kids out there that wish they could eat those peas.

Parental Shock-Statement – Sample #2

To the kid that is complaining about needing to study math:

Look! There are loads of kids that don't even have the opportunity to go to school. Kids in Haiti dream of going to school and getting an education. If you reject this amazing opportunity sitting in front of you, you will end up dumb. This is the only education you are going to get. If I were you, I would deeply appreciate what you have and demonstrate your thankfulness by giving your very best effort to learn. You are showing tremendous disrespect to all those impoverished kids out there that wish they could have an opportunity to go to school and learn math.

ERIC, THE AMATEUR

I certainly would not win the gold medal when it comes to parental shock-statements

THE GOAL OF THE PARENTAL SHOCK-STATEMENT?

To stir a child to fresh awareness, renewed vigor, revived action

Parental Shock-Statement – Sample #3

To the Ludy kid that doesn't understand the privilege of being a Ludy kid:

For it is impossible for those who were once born into the family of Ludy and have been supplied the parental covering of Eric and Leslie, received the love of their Christian home, and found the blessing of the inheritance commonly shared by all Ludy children, if they were

to “fall away” from their place in the Ludy family to ever enter back through the womb of Leslie and re-enter the Ludy home. They have one birth in, and no other. *So, to not take advantage of that one opportunity to be a Ludy kid . . . is the height of insanity!*

THE W.O.H.'S PARENTAL SHOCK-STATEMENT

If they shall fall away

if they shall reject the One Means of Salvation, the One Avenue of Life, and the One Way into the Throne Room of Grace

then it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance

this it is impossible to get them into this Amazing Grace another way

seeing they crucify themselves the Son of God afresh

seeing they seek an additional sacrifice and request for a salvation via a different means but the One and Only Sacrifice of Christ

and put Him to an open shame

and hold with contempt the Word of God, His promises, His loving labor on the Cross, His powerful resurrection, His Holy Spirit's invitation, and the precious Grace available only via faith in His shed blood

IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY . . . IT IS IMPOSSIBLE . . .

the zinger line

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “FALL AWAY”?

Have I fallen away? Can I fall away?

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE RECOVERED

. . . if they fall away it is impossible to renew them again to repentance . . .

Hebrews 6:4-6

Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.

Mark 3:28-30

WHAT IS THAT “SOMETHING” THAT CANNOT BE RECOVERED?

SO, IF IT’S NOT THAT “SOMETHING” THAT YOU HAVE DONE, THEN WHAT?

Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter . . .

Mark 3:28-30

FALLING AWAY

Have I done that?

FLASHBACK: TWO DIRECTIONS FOR A FALL

INTO the hand of the Lord & AWAY from the hand of the Lord

TO PIPTŌ AND TO PARAPIPTŌ

To Piptō

to fall, but into the merciful hand of the Lord

To Parapiptō

to fall away from the merciful hand of the Lord

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To Piptō

to fall, to fail, to stumble, to drop from one level to a lower one

To Parapiptō

To fall beyond repair, to fail without remedy, to stumble without ability to rise, to drop from the edge of the eternal cliff’s edge and end up in the Abyss

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To Piptō

To fall and feel convicted, to fail and desire to make amends, to stumble but to realize that God’s mercy is still present and available, to drop from one level to a lower one and then repent and return again to the higher level.

To Parapiptō

To fall beyond repair because you reject Christ's lone solution, to fail without remedy because the One remedy supplied is refused, to stumble without ability to rise because the outstretched Hand of God's grace was declined, to drop from the edge of the eternal cliff's edge and end up in the Abyss because you refused to turn around before it was too late.

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To Piptō

to fall with desire to stand back up, to fail with the strong yearning to make amends, to stumble but to crave God's mercy and full restoration, to drop from one level to a lower one and then, with tears, repent and return back to the higher level.

To Parapiptō

To fall with no desire to stand back up, to fail without desire to make amends, to stumble without any craving for God to show His mercy, to drop from the edge of the eternal cliff's edge because the barrier of pride and self-justification have prohibited a real repentance.

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To Piptō

the forgivable stumble

To Parapiptō

the unforgivable **S**tumble (a.k.a. – the sin against the Holy Spirit)

THE BASE REASONING

I stepped back and God's Biblical Order #646 declares me a dead man!

THE HEAVENLY REASONING

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Mercy triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13

THE ORDER OF OPERATIONS

Mercy is the first desire of God and ALWAYS the first desire of God

M.H.S.L.S.P.F.J.

My **H**alf **S**ister **L**inda **S**ews **P**ajamas **F**or **J**anitors

1. **M**ercy
2. **H**unt for a reason to give mercy
3. **S**eek out a reason to give mercy
4. **L**ook for a reason to give mercy
5. **S**earch for a reason to give mercy
6. **P**robe for a reason to give mercy
7. **F**orage for a reason to give mercy
8. **J**udgment (only after the route of mercy has been utterly and thoroughly explored)

Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:11

Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.

Proverbs 21:13

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.

Micah 7:18

For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 57:15

As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Psalms 103:13-14

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalms 147:3

For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.

Jeremiah 31:25

For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Matthew 18:11-14

REMEMBER NINEVAH

Jonah knew something that many of us have obviously forgotten

Then God saw (the people of Ninevah's) works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it. But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."

Jonah 3:10, 4:1-2

IMPOSSIBLE?

- *But, what if a child of God sins, and sins terribly, and doesn't immediately turn from their sin? (Remember David's fall?)*
- *But, what if a child of God departs from his Father's House, forsakes everything he once knew, and spends a season in amongst the pigs? (Remember the prodigal's fall?)*
- *But, what if a child of God denies the Son of God, and even curses in so doing? (Remember Peter's fall?)*
- *But, what if a child of God makes a lewd and drunken scene? (Remember Noah fall and Noah's covering?)*
- *But, what if a child of God throws the Truth in a pit and sells it for silver (Remember the fall of the sons of Jacob and remember Joseph's mercy?)*

LET'S REMEMBER HIS GREAT MERCY!

