

The Book of Hebrews
Class Notes
Session 17

Hebrews 5.7-10 Now the focus is on Jesus' mission while on earth...More confirmations of His qualification as a true Priest-King.

(vs.8-11): Jesus' obedient suffering "Perfected" Him... τελειόω (*teleioō*)... "To bring to completeness, wholeness"

Through His obedience as the Son, Jesus was "made perfect" for His role as Lord and High Priest!

Jesus experienced and demonstrated, as *true man*, what it is to obey the will of the Heavenly Father!

"As God's eternal Son, Jesus demonstrated complete obedience to the Father through His suffering. Just as a test may show that a student has perfect or complete knowledge of a topic, the cross showed that Jesus completely obeyed the Father's will. Jesus' Passion led to His exaltation and glory following the resurrection."
(*The Lutheran Study Bible*. Concordia)

Hebrews 5.11-14 Previously, the author has expressed concerns about the spiritual lives of his audience. (Don't repeat the unbelief of God's people in the past...Do not fail to enter God's rest...)

Here, again, the writer expresses his concern (frustration?) they have become "dull of hearing"...
νωθρός (*nōthros*).. "Sluggish" "Careless" At this point they should be farther along...

However, they need to return to the "basic principles" (The "ABC'S")...The oracles of God...Key points of apostolic teaching (Which the author will list in ch.6)

(vs.13-14): They are "unskilled" ἄπειρος (*apeiros*)... "Inexperienced." They have not put their beliefs into practice!

The descriptions and wording likely reflect the concern over the believers being influenced by the culture of the day... "the "World"

"Once more the writer betrayed his concern about his readers' ability to reject the false ideas which confronted them. Had they been sufficiently mature they would be able to "distinguish" those ideas as "evil" over against the truths they should have known were "good." But he feared that this capability was not yet really theirs, though he would make every effort to instill it in them." (Z.C. Hodges. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

Hebrews 6.1-8 The author continues with the admonitions to Christian maturity. The "therefore" reflects the argument summarized in 5.14.

What are the "basics?" ... Six qualities... *Repentance from "acts of death." (Legalisms/Paganism).
*Faith in God... *Baptisms... *Resurrection/Eternal judgment. Believers must go forward in faith...
If "God permits" (v.4).

(vs.4-6): The argument now turns to a real danger...The ultimate rejection of Christ and faith.

A textual "challenge?" Can a person "lose" their salvation? Are these "True Christians?" Not "True Christians?"

Vs4-6 describe the advantages and blessings of those who had been given *opportunities* to follow Jesus...These people have...

Been... “Enlightened” ...Intellectual perception of biblical truth.... “Tasted... γεύομαι (*geuomai*)... “To taste, experience.” ...The heavenly gift” ... The gift of salvation through Jesus.... “Shared...in the Holy Spirit” ... μέτοχος (*metochos*)... “To partake.” A reference to association not necessarily possession.

(Again)...“Tasted...the goodness of the word and the age to come.” ... ῥῆμα (*rhēma*)... “A unit of discourse.” ... “The age to come”...The future kingdom of God.

The issue: Some of the people had been blessed by and had been exposed to God’s truth, the Holy Spirit, and the hope of the kingdom...Yet they would NOT BELIEVE!

There is no chance of repentance because they won’t repent! No person can bring back those who, having received the message of salvation, fall away from it and seek a way of salvation *other* than Christ.

Luther: “If anyone has fallen away from Christ, who is the true sacrifice for sins, and seeks another way or mode to be saved and go to heaven, he will never go there, he will not succeed” ((Quoted in, *The Lutheran Study Bible*. Concordia Publishing).

This is not directed at justified believers...It is the opportunity to receive salvation...not salvation itself, that can be “lost.” A principle: Scripture interpreting Scripture.

John 10.27-29; Romans 8.35, 38-39. Philippians 1.6.

(vs.7-8): Like the crowds calling for Jesus’ crucifixion, those who fall away viciously reject Christ’s mercy and forgiveness.

An agricultural metaphor...All those who hear the Gospel and respond in faith are like the earth receiving rain...The “seed” of faith grows!

However...If the Gospel is rejected (“hard soil”/heart)...Then faith cannot grow and be productive...Only “thorns and thistles”... *Genesis 3.17-18a*... The consequences...This is only good for burning!

“Christians grow in maturity by building on the basic teachings of the faith and connecting God’s promises with the new way of life that He gives. Those who reject God’s promises should fear the just judgment of God. If we fail to be fruitful in love, mercy, and generosity, we become like thorns and thistles, fit only for His fire. However, we can be confident that God, who has given us the gift of salvation, will grow the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.” (*The Lutheran Study Bible*).

Questions and Applications

- Being diligent in growing in our faith is critical to faithful living. It is so easy to “drift” away from an intimate relationship with Jesus. The gift of salvation is just that—a *gift*! And, as the Bible tells us in *Philippians 2.12-13*: “... *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*”