

Hebrews 5:10-14

3 Dangers Of Spiritual Immaturity



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

Author: Unknown, but many theories (Paul, Apollos, etc.)

Audience: Written approx. 65 AD to believers in Rome who were formerly Jewish

Major Theme: Jesus is better! (Better than Law, Moses, Temple)

Setting: These formerly Jewish believers were being persecuted for following Jesus. They tempted to walk away from Christianity

Missing Out On Important Truths About Jesus

(vv. 10-11) Author sought to go into detail about Jesus' identity and ministry as believers' Great High Priest

Uses the OT figure "Melchizedek" to teach lesson; Melchizedek was a foreshadowing of Jesus (his life and ministry pointed to the type of Messiah Jesus would be)

Author stops discussion; people weren't able to understand

They had become dull to spiritual things and sluggish to hear

1 Cors. 14:20, “Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.”

Eph. 4:15, “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ.”



Severely Misapplying God's Word and Ways

(vv. 12-13) Author was hindered because of spiritual condition of people

Stated by this time, readers should have been teachers, but in fact needed to be taught again the ABC's of following Jesus

Milk: symbol of the very easy basics of faith

Solid Food: deeper truths and doctrines and their application

2 Tim. 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Psalms 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”



Failing To Reach The Goal Of Becoming More Like Jesus

(v. 14) Author reminds readers of importance of maturing spiritually

This means gradually becoming more like Jesus; possessing over time His Christ-like characteristics

Spiritually Mature: “exercise themselves” spiritually and consistently

Solid Food: going from the “milk” of the faith, to “solid food” so as to grow; the deeper truths and practices of following Jesus

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

2 Tim. 4:7-8, “...exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”



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