

Lessons From Hebrews

The Willfully Immature Christian

(He 5:11-14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. We have completed the "overview" of the book of Hebrews.
 - i. Keeping in mind that Jesus is greater than...
 1. The angels
 2. Moses
 3. The Levitical Priesthood
 4. The Mosaic Law
 - b. We are now going to go back and highlight a few more specific lessons that can be gleaned from this most impressive book.
 - i. One of those lessons is found in our text today.
 1. **He 5:11-14** "About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."¹
3. What is an immature Christian?
 - a. Those that are "babes in Christ" and are just learning the truth.
 - i. **Jn 3:5** "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
 - b. Those that are "babes in Christ" because their desire is not to mature.
 - i. **I Co 3:1-2** "But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready"
4. It is this second group the Hebrew writer is frustrated with.
 - a. Here the writer points out the difference between a "milk loving Christian" and a "solid food loving Christian."
5. Let us now examine the differences pointed out by the writer.

I. The Milk Loving Christian (11-13)

A. Dull of hearing

1. All too often young Christians become dull of hearing to God's Word listening rather after those things that tickle the ears.
 - i. **II Ti 4:3** "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions"

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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2. In so doing they will, without exception, stray from God's Word.
 - i. **Pr 19:27** "Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."
 3. Straying from God's Word has horrific consequences not even including eternal damnation.
 - i. **Pr 28:9** "If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination."
- B. Unskilled in the Word of righteousness
1. Why is it that being dull of hearing leads to one straying from God's Word and having his prayers an abomination?
 - i. Because he/she is "unskilled in the Word of righteousness."
 2. Being willfully unskilled in God's Word means...
 - i. We are of the flesh rather than the spirit.
 - a. **I Co 3:1** "But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ."
 - ii. We are wasting our intellect.
 - a. **I Co 14:20** "Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."
 - iii. We can and will be tossed to and fro by false teachers and doctrines.
 - a. **Ep 4:14** "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."
- C. A child (milk loving)
1. Is dull of hearing and unskilled in the Word of righteousness.

II. The Solid Food Loving Christian (14)

- A. Quick to listen
1. Why, because they grasp that the more they know, the more they can apply and the more they apply the more wise they will become in God's Word.
 - i. **Pr 8:33** "Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it."
- B. Trained in the powers of discernment
1. How is this power of discernment trained?
 - i. By constant practice distinguishing good from evil.
 - a. **I Co 9:27** "But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."
 - ii. By constant prayer that we practice perfect discernment between good and evil.
 - a. **Ph 1:9** "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment"
 - iii. By constantly growing up in every way into Christ.
 - a. **Ep 4:15** "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ"
- C. An adult (solid food loving)
1. Is quick to listen and learn constantly training his powers of discernment.

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there is but one way a child of God can be pleasing to God each day and that is by growing day by day in godliness.
 - a. **II Pt 1:8-11** "For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
2. Question: Are you a milk loving or solid food loving Christian?
 - a. If solid food loving continue to grow thereby day by day.
 - b. If milk loving why not change now before it is too late.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**