
Hebrews 5:11-14 Hebrews 6:1-3

Topic: This is one of the most neglected books of the bible. We don't know who the author is, but we do know it was written for the instruction of the temple before 70 A.D. It is to the Jews what the book of Romans is to the Gentiles. Hebrews tells of sacrifices and rituals and exalts the sovereignty of Christ. It tells of Christ's relation to Moses and Abraham and all those people. This is why the Book of Hebrews is so great. The message of Hebrews is this: go on to spiritual maturity. Don't sit back on your laurels; get up and do something for the Lord, spread the word, help someone who doesn't ask but you see they need it.

Vs11: This is warning to Christians. There are some things that I need to tell you about, but you're not ready to hear it. "Your dull hearing" means the Hebrew Christians are not ready to hear what he has to say. **Vs12:** The Hebrew Christians have been Christians long enough that they need to be out teaching now, not sitting on their laurels.

They need to do adult things with their spiritual lessons, not just go hear the same thing over and over again. The people need to take their spiritual lessons out of the classroom and into the world, and teach by lecture, paper, and example, or however they can teach others.

Vs13: Since you have matured to a point where you can use the word of God but you don't actually use it in the real world, then you are not doing well. If you use God's Word, then you become skilled in His word. The more you use it, the more skillful you become in living the Christian life.

Vs14: a lot of people want to spend a lot of time studying false religions and cults to see what they teach. Don't waste your time. Know the basics, but don't delve too deep. If you understand the bible, then you have all the tools you need to fend off lies and evil. You need to know what the bible says, and you need to PRACTICE it in real life. Honor God your Father first and foremost, don't stir up trouble, turn the other cheek, treat others with respect, be slow to anger, all that and more.

Many commentators skip commenting on Chapter 6 because it is so controversial, but we'll deal with it in this class. Remember: you have to take scripture in the context in which it was written to avoid confusion. Chapter 6 was written to Hebrew Christian who were pulling back from the teachings of Christ back to the old Judaism ways.

Hebrews 6:1: They were leaving the basic principles of the teachings of Christ. The writer wants these people to move on now, they have the basics, repent from their old ways, and move on, grow in the word of Christ. They were going back to the old ways of animal sacrifice and baptism as the only way to get to heaven. All that is dead works.

Vs2: laying on of hands was the passing of your sins to the goat: all these practices are old and obsolete since Christ came and died for our sins. He nailed it to the cross. So let's leave these

things alone and move on to the truth. The Sabbath is between God and Israel, not the church.

Vs3: put it all behind you, forget about it and move on, if God permits.

Galatians 3:24: the law was to justify us by faith. But we've graduated; we no longer need a schoolmaster, because Christ died on the cross for us.

2:16: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. It doesn't say it plainer than that. The old ways are dead, no longer applicable.

2:21: I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. Those who still practice the old ways are saying that Christ died in vain and they don't need Him. The old law required a perfect sacrifice, and Christ was just that – the perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 6:4-6: study these controversial verses over the week and we'll discuss them next week:

- 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,
- 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,
- 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

These verses are talking about a group of people who you see come kneel down and make a commitment to Christ, and then they backslide later in life, returning to lying, stealing, cheating, etc.

Carl will tell us they have been misused, twisted, and help us understand these three verses next week.