

Back to Basics

- Knowledge of facts is not enough
- Some Christians do not have a knowledge of basic facts of gospel . . . or books of NT

- A Christian who does not grow puts soul in eternal peril

Hb.5:11-6:20, apostasy

- Writer must discuss Melchizedek, 10-11
- Much to say, hard to explain . . .
 - Not because writer can't express it
 - Not because subject is too complex
 - Because the hearers are immature

- Some Christians have become immature
 - They were not sluggish at first
 - Was it . . .
 1. Hard work / fatigue?
 2. Satisfaction with present growth?
 3. Bored with reading / hearing?
 4. Short attention span?
 5. Pride?
 6. Easily distracted?
 7. Give up too quickly?
 8. Limit studies to one issue?

Indifference
and neglect
stunt growth

- Some Christians have become immature
- Dull of hearing
 - Sluggish (hard of hearing)
 - Writer is concerned about receiver
 - Their problem is mental / spiritual
 - Old problems often stay too long –
Hb.5:12-6:3

5:12-14 – writer needs to discuss Melchizedek – Christ

- But his class is on preschool level
- 11: they *became* dull of hearing (slow, sluggish) . . . hard to explain
- Ignorance destroys souls
2 Pt.3¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction

- Neglect destroys souls

Mt.13¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.

5:12 – *by this time*

- Growth takes time; not time alone
 - Preoccupied? addicted to fun? ...work?
...bored?

5:12 – *ought to be teachers*

- Christians for so long...should be teaching others; fell back so far that they need someone to teach them ABC's

5:12 – *need someone to teach you again*

- Need remedial course in gospel
- We must grow or die

5:12-13 – *first principles*

- ABC's... Cannot grow strong only on milk

5:14 – *solid food...for the mature*

– Full-grown, mature, adult...

5:14 – *by reason of use*

- *Practice*, habit, doing again and again
 - ‘Use it or lose it’
 - Can’t read Bible once and become a spiritual giant
 - Good habits help us grow
 - Bad habits stunt growth

5:14 – *have their senses exercised*

- Hb.5 – spiritual training
- What if Olympic athletes were as lacking in dedication as some Christians...?
- Discipline is the key

5:14 – *discern both good and evil*

- 1 Th.5:22
- Spiritual infancy is dangerous
- Babies are naïve

6:1 – *therefore*

- A conclusion of 5:12-14

6:1 – leaving the discussion...

- As a lover? (forsake; abandon) - a danger
- As a teacher? (we will leave this chapter for the next) - readers are not up to the task
 - Implies progress; build on foundation laid in earlier chapters
 - First principles are stepping stones, not a stopping place

6:1 – *elementary teaching; go on to perfection*

- 6:1 matches 5:14 – grow or die

1: *not laying again the foundation*

- Foundations are good, but no one lays a foundation over and over without building on it
- A church cannot always feed on baby food
- Some are Christians for 30 years but do not have 30 years of growth
- Six topics illustrate what writer has in mind

I. Repentance From Dead Works

1. Dead works

- Works of sin that bring death
- Ro.6:23 . . . Hb.6:4-6
- Denominational preachers view baptism as dead work; warn that it produces death (trust it instead of Savior)
 - Were *they* baptized?
 - Mk.16:16, believe + baptism = lost??
 - Ac.2:38, repent + baptism = ??
- Faith is work – Jn.6:27-29

1. Dead works

- Repentance from dead works demands a change of conduct
- MDR – one-loosed, both-loosed position
 - Even the guilty may remain in adultery
 - Handcuffs

What does repentance demand?

- Rv.2²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.
²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds

1. Dead works

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What does repentance demand?

- Rv.9²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts

Repentance: can't stay in sin and please God

I. Repentance From Dead Works

II. Faith Toward God

2. Faith - God

- Hb.11:1...6, verbs (action words)
- Faith is doing
- 'Diligently seek' – Esau, Hb.12:17
- Why do some have to lose something to seek it?
- Denom.: “Faith is the only thing you can do without doing anything” (? ? ?)

2. Faith - God

- 3:18-19, disobedient = unbelief
- 11:30, Rahab's faith contrasts with others' disobedience
- Hb.11 – faith requires verbs of action throughout

True faith – Hebrews

- 4:2, hearing word w/o faith is worthless.
1 Sm.3:10
- 6:12, faith / patience opposite of sluggish
- 10:22, full assurance of faith; baptism
- 11:4, way to worship
- 11:5-6, necessary for pleasing God