

"Sure of Better Things"

Hebrews 5.11 - 6.12

Several WEEKS looking at Letter > Pastor to Xtians from JEWISH Background

2 Main Points of Hebrews - God Speaks / God Saves

“consider Jesus, the **apostle and high priest** of our confession” Hebrews 3.1

God Speaks > thru Jesus Christ THE Apostle – FULL, FINAL Word from God

God Saves > by Jesus Christ, Great High Priest offered Own Blood Once for All

Linked > REDEMPTION (God SAVES) & REVELATION (God SPEAKS)

REASON God SPEAKS is to Announce/Apply wonderful Fact God SAVES

God SAVED from EGYPT > PENTATEUCH 1st 5 Books of Scripture / Moses

God SAVED from EXILE – Hebrew HISTORY, PROPHETS, POETRY

God SAVED FOREVER > NEW TEST. FINAL, FULL Word from God

SALVATION’s Work is COMPLETE / SCRIPTURE’S Word is CLOSED

MAIN THEME of the Message > JESUS & SCRIPTURES

1.1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

NOTHING is BETTER than Jesus / RECEIVE Him Fully, Freely

More than 100 X’s in SERMON pastor/writer Quotes Hebrew Scripture

“God says” / “Again” / “He Says” / “It has been testified somewhere”

3.7 “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,” QUOTES A PSALM OF DAVID

4.7 “saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

3.7 / 4.7 QUOTE SAME Psalm: 95 > Fully Word of God AND Word of Man

4.12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart -

Read BIBLE & Bible WILL READ YOU!

Step into our TEXT of Hebrews Today >

1. Concern for Immature Christians 2. Challenge to Maturing Christians

Xtians who RECEIVED this Letter FOLLOWED X for Number of YEARS

CHURCH – 30 yrs?!, Not Building, Not Socially Popular, Sometimes ILLEGAL

PROBLEM is NOT that they're YOUNG Christians who are IMMATURE

NORMAL for YOUNG Child or Young Christian to BE IMMATURE

PROBLEM > They are OLDER Christians who are STILL Immature

MATURITY --- Big Enough on INSIDE to CONTROL Yourself on OUTSIDE

A Young Person CAN BE Very MATURE --- BIG on INSIDE and OUTSIDE

OLD Person can be Very IMMATURE --- NO CONTROL Inside OR Outside

MATURITY --- Big Enough on INSIDE to CONTROL Yourself on OUTSIDE

1. Concern for Immature Christians > 5.11-14

a. Smug to the Word of God > Apathy, Indifference, DULL of Hearing

v. 11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Some Believers on BACKWARD Journey >> DRIFTING from WORD of God

2.1 we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it

Then began to DOUBT the Word >> 3.12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

WHY Don't we READ BIBLE, LISTEN to Sermon, PRAY > It's BOORING!

If that's Answer: "you (*may*) have become dull of hearing" / Smug to W of God

b. Stifling the Word of God > FREELY RECEIVED, but NOT Freely GIVING

v. 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.

People been Believers for DECADES but Never Made ANY DISCIPLES
TALK Lots of STORY but Never Share THE Story World DYING to Hear

Believe in Jesus? EXPLAIN Who He Is? What did He do? What does it mean?

Can U tell Someone WHY they Need Him? What happens if they REJECT Him?

SADLY, TODAY: Most Christians NEVER Read ENTIRE Bible

Cannot RECITE All the 10 Commandments

Think: *“God helps those who help themselves”* VS BIBLE? Benjamin Franklin

KNOW BIBLE & GOD > **God helps those who CANNOT Help Themselves**

c. Substitutes for the Word of God

vs. 12,13 You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

SMALL CHILD will PUT Anything in their MOUTH

Not SURPRISED Anymore by the CRAZY Some Christians will SWALLOW

MIND Shaped by G.I.G.O. Principle --- Put GOOD IN > GOOD comes OUT

BE Transformed by RENEWING of your MIND – FEED Upon WORD of GOD

G.I.G.O. Principle --- If you put GARBAGE IN > GARBAGE comes OUT

d. Sensitivity to the Word of God

v. 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.

Stott: Every Christian needs B.B.C. > NOT ref British Broadcasting Company

BBC > Biblical, BALANCED, Christianity

Xtians EXCITED > LATEST SHINY OBJECT

God does Something UNIQUE > Soon being MASS-Marketed, Franchised

Make our Church like THE LATEST ONE HIT WONDER on the INTERNET

God has BIGGER and BETTER Plan > Showed it to Apostle JOHN

“a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
Revelation 7.9,10

5.14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

LOST Power of Discernment > Give EXPENSIVE Present to SMALL Child

Wrap TREASURE in CHEAP GIFT-Wrapping Paper

Child MORE INTERESTED in Wrapping Paper than the VALUABLE Present

GIVER thinks WHY did SPEND Money on BIG GIFT > Next Time give Paper!

Pastor to HEBREWS WORRIED – about Believers LACK OF DISCERNMENT

SMUG – STIFLING -SUBSTITUTES – NO SENSITIVITY to Word of GOD

2. Challenge to Maturing Christians - 6.1-12

SNAPSHOT of Congregational LIFE in 1st C Assembly of BELIEVERS...

a. Foundation - Stand on it and Keep Building - 2 COUPLETS of Xtian Faith

1st Couplet – Symbols of JUSTIFICATION – Simple CREED of The Faith

6.1,2 foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings

Repentance / Faith – ENTRANCE WAY to Jesus

Washings – Baptism > Many Ceremonial Washings in 1st C JUDAISM

Symbolize > JUSTIFICATION: God DECLARING Us Righteous by Blood of X

2nd Couplet – Symbols of SANCTIFICATION and GLORIFICATION

6.2 the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment

Hands – Welcomed into Fellowship, Right Hand of Fellowship, Laying On

Future – RESURRECTION > Joy and Hope > Symbols of Early Church

SANCTIFICATION Process of Growing in HOLINESS

GLORIFICATION – Final Step of Salvation – All Things Made NEW in Jesus

6.1,3 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity... And this we will do if God permits.

NOT MEAN Forget about these > KEEP BUILDING ON Them!

Now that you KNOW you A,B,C's > START Reading!

FUNDAMENTALS are FOUNDATION > Keep Building, Growing, Going!

Jesus: “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”
Matthew 7.24,25

NEVER Stand Still in Christ > Either PROGRESSING or REGRESSING

b. Fakes - Make Sure You are Not One

Hebrews has Several WARNING Passages > HEART of Pastor for MEMBERS

Ch 2 > Danger of DRIFTING, Now Ch 6 > DANGER of APOSTASY!

“I KNOW I am NOT Walking with God – but I have had GREAT Experiences”

FALSE SECURITY > Experience Community but NOT KNOWING Christ

6.4,5 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come

Some INTERPRET this as DESCRIPTION of a REAL TRUE Christian

In the NEIGHBORHOOD of the Household of God > Never Walked thru DOOR

Writing to HEBREW Christians > Warns them NOT to MISS God's REST

ISRAELITES who DIED in Wilderness ALSO had Great Experiences

10 Plagues, Red Sea, Mtn SINAI, Manna, Quail

Perhaps 2 MILLION Left EGYPT > ONLY 2 ENTERED the Promised LAND

6.4 been enlightened...tasted the heavenly gift...shared in Holy Spirit...tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come

Describes Those who ENJOY the Blessings for Church, Not Converted

EXPERIENCES of Xtian Faith > But NEVER FULLY EMBRACED by Faith

“The most accurate description of Judas Iscariot anywhere in New Testament” Sinclair Ferguson

Apostle Paul describes VICTORY Procession in ROMAN Cities

ARMY Returns to HOME Town > PARADE to RECEIVE the HEROES

thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere...the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life

2 Corinthians 2.14-16

HEAD of the Parade – Home Town Soldiers – VICTORS from Battlefield

CROWDS throw So Many Flowers – Trampled by Footsoldiers & Horses

AROMA of Flowers fills the Streets – Entire TOWN > Sweet to VICTORS

But at END of Parade > CAPTIVES – DEFEATED in Battle – PRISONERS

Those Flowers > STENCH of DEATH > NEVER Going Home Again > DIE?!

FLOWERS that Smell like HOME to Victors / HELL to those VANQUISHED

IF You are FAKE, there is NO FORGIVENESS...

6.4,6 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened...then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

JESUS will be EITHER Your FOUNDATION or STONE of Stumbling

6.7,8 For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

c. Fruit – Make Sure Yours is Lasting

Once Saved Always Saved! Absolutely!! Question: WERE YOU SAVED!?

EVIDENCE that WERE Saved is You are BEING SAVED --- Fruit is Evident!

PASTOR Cares ENOUGH about Hebrew Xtians to GET UP IN THEIR GRILL

6.9 Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

The BELOVED BELONG to Salvation – They can EXPECT BETTER Things

Do U Say “GOING to Come BACK to Christ Later!” Really? No Way to Know

CHRISTIAN LIFE is like RIDING BICYCLE > Gotta KEEP PEDDLING

Christian Life like SEE-SAW > If YOU are Up, God is DOWN > God needs to be UP!

Message: Exhortation / Warning / Encouragement “I feel sure of better things”

6.9-12 “Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Hebrews 5.¹¹ About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For 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, ¹³for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. 6. ¹Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God permits. ⁴For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. ⁷For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. ⁹Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. ¹⁰For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. ¹¹And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.