

Hebrews 5:11 – 6:12

BE MATURE... (4 POINTS)

- **1ST – DO NOT BE IMMATURE... vs. 11-14**

- o **1st – Hard to Explain... vs. 11**

- The Author wanted to talk MORE about Melchizedek – but it was HARD to explain...
 - HARD to explain – only here NT – difficult to interpret into your LANGUAGE...
 - What he wanted to talk about was SPIRITUAL – but the readers were WORLDLY...
 - They did NOT speak the same LANGUAGE!
- Those in the WORLD do not UNDERSTAND the Word...
 - **1 Corinthians** – “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”
 - Do you ever wonder why people in the WORLD overlook the obvious...
 - It seems so apparent to us Jesus is the answer - how could anyone miss it...
 - When we talk about our FAITH – those who are NOT saved do not understand...
 - We are literally talking in a different LANGUAGE – and it is hard to interpret it to them!

- o **2nd – Unable to hear... vs. 11**

- They could NOT understand – because they were DULL of hearing...
 - DULL of hearing [perfect] – 2x in NT – from a root word meaning illegitimate child...
 - An illegitimate child – does NOT have anyone to teach them right from wrong!
 - Therefore they were NOT [perfect] willing to LISTEN to the TRUTH!
- Those in the WORLD do not LISTEN to the Word...
 - I can remember my Dad reading the book of Ephesians to me as child...
 - It made NO sense – I had very little interest – and did NOT listen...
 - Because I was not YET a child of God – I was still lost in this WORLD!
 - To people in the WORLD – the Bible is just another old book...
 - A collection of myths meant to teach moral stories – but NOT the WORD of God!
 - Therefore they do not pay much attention to it – they are DULL of hearing!

- o **3rd – Unable to teach... vs. 12**

- By this time they ought to be TEACHERS...
 - The Author is NOT writing to kids – he is addressing grown men and women...
 - People who should not just UNDERSTAND – they should be able to TEACH!
 - But – they needed someone to TEACH them AGAIN...
 - The First PRINCIPALS – literally the ABCs of the FAITH – the most BASIC ideas...
 - Of the ORACLES of God – another way of saying the Word of God!
- Those in the WORLD do not TEACH to the Word...
 - Not everyone is called to be a TEACHER – but we should all KNOW the Word...
 - We never know when we might have an opportunity to share the Gospel...
 - If we are unsure of ourselves in the Word of God - the hope of Jesus...
 - We are not going to be very effective – in teaching others about it...
 - Get to know the Bible - know how to find important verses - be prepared!
 - **I Peter 3:15** – “Always be ready to give a defense... for the hope that is in you.”

- o **4th – Unable to eat... vs. 12-14**

- They need [perfect] MILK and not MEAT...
 - Everyone who eats MILK – is INEXPERIENCED in the Word of righteousness – a BABY...
 - But MEAT – is for those who are of FULL AGE [teleios] – complete...
 - Who by reason of *constant* USE [gymnazō] can discern both GOOD and EVIL!

- Those in the WORLD do not MATURE in the Word...
 - It is cute to bottle feed a young infant - no surprise - when they mess their diapers...
 - But it is NOT cute - when a grown adult is still on the bottle - still wearing diapers!
 - When we first come to know the Lord - we are not going to understand much...
 - We are going to make a lot of mistakes - and struggle to overcome our sin...
 - But we should not stay that way - as we get into the Word - we should GROW...
 - Becoming MATURE in the Lord – as we exercise our FAITH – discerning GOOD and EVIL!
- 2ND – KNOW THE BASICS... vs. 1-3
 - o Elementary principals... vs. 1 / 3
 - Therefore – let us leave the elementary [arche] teachings [logos] of Christ...
 - NOT laying AGAIN the foundation – the ABCs of the Christian Faith...
 - The author gives us SIX BASIC doctrines – all believers should KNOW!
 - And will DO – if God permits [subjunctive] – meaning our MATURITY comes from the Lord!
 - **Philippians 4:13** – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - o 1st - REPENTANCE from dead works... vs. 1
 - REPENTANCE – a change of mind...
 - Dead WORKS – the idea that somehow we can WORK for our salvation...
 - The author was writing to Jews - who believed in keeping (work) the Law!
 - **Romans 3:20** – “By the [works] of the law no [one] will be justified in His sight.”
 - The Law is perfect – but the problem is we are not perfect...
 - What the Law does is show us we are sinners – **Romans 7:7 / Galatians 3:24**
 - Once we see our sin – we REPENT – and confess our need for Jesus as a savior!
 - o 2nd - FAITH towards God... vs. 1
 - Our salvation is a GIFT from God by FAITH – **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - God gave us the incredible GIFT of righteousness and heaven - through Jesus!
 - We did nothing to earn it - in fact there is NOTHING we can do to deserve it...
 - Our part of salvation is being willing to believe and receive His GIFT!
 - The way we receive the GIFT - is through FAITH...
 - We cannot see God - and the GIFT God gives us is not something we can hold...
 - It is something we believe - by FAITH we TRUST God has forgiven us of our sin!
 - o 3rd - Doctrine of BAPTISMS... vs. 2
 - BAPTISMS – plural – speaking FIRST of WATER baptism...
 - We are commanded as believers to be water BAPTIZED – **Acts 2:38**
 - But water BAPTISM does not save us – the thief on the cross – **Luke 23:43**
 - It is the outward confession of what takes place within us when we believe in Jesus!
 - If you have a diploma – the paper does not give you any more knowledge...
 - But the paper represents the time and effort that went into earning that diploma!
 - Our old nature was buried with Jesus – taken under the water – a picture of our death...
 - We were raised up with Jesus – taken out of the water – a picture of new life!
 - BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit...
 - The BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit – is the POWER to live for God - **Acts 1:8**
 - If you have 100w light bulb – it has the potential to light up a dark room...
 - But unless you plug it into the wall – give it POWER – it does not give off light!
 - We are called to be a light in a dark world – **Matthew 5:14**
 - But we need the Holy Spirit to LIGHT us up – give us the POWER to shine for Jesus!
 - o 4th - LAYING on of HANDS... vs. 2
 - According to the Bible – we lay hands on people for several reasons...

- We LAY HANDS on people for HEALING – **Acts 9:17 / James 5:13-15**
- We LAY HANDS on people to send them out to PREACH the Gospel – **Acts 13:2**
- We also LAY HANDS to ordain men called to LEAD in the church – **Acts 6:6**
- **The purpose is to show connection – we hurt together / recognize the call of God together!**
- o 5th – RESURRECTION of the dead... vs. 2
 - The WORLD questions the idea of a RESURRECTION...
 - They have never seen a dead man live again – so the RESURRECTION is just foolishness...
 - You live - then you die - that is the end - there is no life after death!
 - **I Corinthians 15:35-36** – “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have? What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it does not grow into a plant unless it dies first.” [NLT]
 - **When God resurrects our old body – do NOT expect to look the same...**
 - **He will give us a new body – MUCH better than the one we have now – II Corinthians 5:1**
 - What if we are maimed / cremated / buried at sea...
 - God made man from the dust of the earth – **Genesis 2:7**
 - Adam sinned - was told he would return to the dust he came from – **Genesis 3:19**
 - **Quite literally true - we are actually made up of the same SIX main elements as DUST!**
 - **Whether it takes us 50 years / or 50 minutes - the end is the same - dust...**
 - **God is more than able to collect our DUST and reassemble for us our NEW body!**
- o 6th – Eternal judgment... vs. 2
 - EVERY man will be JUDGED – unbelievers at the Great White Throne – **Revelation 20:11**
 - Believers before the Bema Seat of Christ – **II Corinthians 5:10**
 - **The moment we DIE our fate is sealed - there are NO second chances...**
 - **There is no purgatory - the prayers of saints / priests / family cannot help us...**
 - **Either we have received Jesus and have the hope of eternity with God...**
 - **Or we have rejected the Gospel - and have sentenced ourselves to eternity apart from God!**
 - **Hebrews 9:27** - “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...”
- **3RD – THE WARNING... vs. 4-8**
 - o 1st – It is IMPOSSIBLE – to repent... vs. 4-6
 - Why is it so IMPORTANT to move on from the BASICS – MATURE in our walk with God...
 - Because it is IMPOSSIBLE – to have NO strength or ability... vs. 4
 - If they FALL AWAY - to RENEW them again to REPENTANCE... vs. 6
 - We are given the THIRD of FIVE warnings in the book of Hebrews...
 - The FIRST warning - give the more earnest heed - lest we DRIFT AWAY – **Hebrews 2:1-4**
 - The SECOND warning – is about the DANGER of a HARD HEART – **Hebrews 3:7-19**
 - The THIRD warning – is the DANGER of not MATURING / growing in our FAITH!
 - For those who do not MATURE in their faith – might FALL AWAY!
 - **This is one of the most controversial passages in Hebrews – perhaps the Bible...**
 - **We want to take a close look at WHO the author is WARNING...**
 - **And WHAT does it mean that it is IMPOSSIBLE for them to REPENT!**
 - WHO cannot repent – FIVE descriptions – all in the PAST [aorist] tense...
 - Once ENLIGHTENED – to bring into the LIGHT – see their need for Jesus – **John 1:9**
 - Tasted the Heavenly GIFT [dōrea] – 11x NT – experienced the GIFT of the Spirit...
 - Were made [passive] PARTAKERS of the Holy Spirit – had the Spirit come upon them...
 - Tasted the good WORD [rhēma] of God – had HEARD the Word of God...
 - The POWER [dynamis] of the age to come – had experienced MIRACLES in their life!
 - THREE views on WHO is being described...
 - 1 - Hyperbole – exaggeration to emphasize the WARNING...

- This is very unlikely – it would be treating the subject of REPENTANCE flippantly!
- 2 – Unbelievers – this WARNING is to those who are NOT saved...
- Also unlikely – as unbelievers have NOT been made PARTAKERS of the Holy Spirit!
- 3 – Believers – this WARNING is to those who are saved...
- This is the most likely interpretation – as the FIVE descriptions ONLY fit a BELIEVER!
- o 2nd – Why it is IMPOSSIBLE ... vs. 6
 - If a believer – FALLS AWAY [only here NT] – to turn aside / wander off the path...
 - It is IMPOSSIBLE for them to REPENT again – because...
 - They are CRUCIFYING [present] for themselves the Son of God and SHAMING Him...
 - SHAMING [present] – 2x in NT – to make an bad example of!
 - TWO views on why they CANNOT repent...
 - Unforgiveable sin – if someone does NOT mature in their walk...
 - Ultimately walking away from their FAITH – if they tried to REPENT...
 - They would SHAME the name of Jesus – to come back would be to CRUCIFY Him again!
 - Likely NOT the correct interpretation – because God will always FORGIVE any sin!
 - **I John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...”
 - Rejecting Jesus – those who FALL AWAY...
 - Become like the crowd that REJECTED – and in the end SHAMED Jesus...
 - The multitudes who cried out HOSANA [save us now] – **John 12:13**
 - Were the same people who FOUR days later cried CRUCIFY – **John 19:15**
 - If we SEE Jesus is the answer – have tasted His Spirit / His Word / and Power...
 - But we do not MATURE – and end up hardening our hearts so that we FALL away...
 - Then there is NO repentance left for us – because we have rejected the ONLY way...
 - The unforgivable sin is to die having rejected Jesus as our personal Savior!
 - **Matthew 12:31** – “Every sin... will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will NOT be forgiven men.”
- o 3rd – The example of FRUIT... vs. 7-8
 - TWO kinds of fruit...
 - The earth drinks in the rain – and bears plants that are USEFUL...
 - The PLANT that are USEFUL – are BLESSED by the Lord – we would say HEAVEN!
 - But if they bears thorns – they are REJECTED – and in the end BURNED!
 - BURNED [noun] – the PLACE of burning – we would say HELL!
 - You know who someone is by their FRUIT...
 - **Matthew 7:16** – ““You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from [thorns] or figs from [briers]?”
 - The FRUIT of the Spirit is something that God creates in us - it is from Him...
 - We cannot make ourselves Godly - it is the result being connected to Jesus!
 - **John 15:5** - “Those who ABIDE in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”
- 4th – BETTER THINGS... vs. 9-12
 - o 1st – Confident of salvation... vs. 9
 - Having given the THIRD warning – the author shared his CONFIDENCE...
 - We are CONFIDENT [perfect] of BETTER things that accompany SALVATION...
 - Even though there was a strong WARNING – there was great HOPE!
 - It is hard to confront people – especially those who we care about...
 - We might think it is better NOT to WARN someone who is NOT growing in their walk...
 - But we want them to MATURE – so they can be FRUITFUL in the Lord!

- o 2nd – Ministering to the saints... vs. 10
 - God is NOT unjust to forget...
 - Their WORK [ordinary] and labor [intense] of love – towards His name...
 - They MINISTERED [aorist] to the saints – and still MINISTERED [present]!
 - Before Jesus – we tended to ONLY think about ourselves...
 - We thought the world revolved around our lives – it was easy to ignore others...
 - But we KNOW we have MATURED – when we become OTHERS centered...
 - Not just yesterday [aorist] – but EVERY day intensely laboring in LOVE – for the Lord!
 - **Philippians 2:4** – “Do NOT look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” [NLT]
- o 3rd – Diligence... vs. 11-12
 - We DESIRE [passionate] that each one of you KEEP showing [present] the same DILIGENCE...
 - KEEP bearing good FRUIT – so they would have full assurance of HOPE - until the END!
 - The WARNINGS of the book of Hebrews can be VERY unsettling...
 - We would like to think we can raise our hand one Sunday – say a few words...
 - Then have ASSURANCE – no matter what we do – heaven is still our destination!
 - But our ASSURANCE is not in our WORDS – it comes from ABIDING in the WORD!
 - **Hebrews 12:2** - “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”
 - Do NOT become SLUGGISH...
 - SLUGGISH [dull] – same as **Hebrews 5:11** – an illegitimate child...
 - Do not let our ears become DULL – stop listening to the Word...
 - INSTEAD - find those who are MATURE and IMITATE their example of...
 - FAITH – putting our TRUST in Jesus – believing in His Word...
 - PATIENCE – [makrothymōs] – to endure hardship for a LONG time!
 - Being careful whom we spend time with – who we are influenced by...
 - We all follow the example of someone – they lead us either towards or away from God...
 - Surround ourselves with godly people - those who encourage our walk in the Lord...
 - So - we can inherit the PROMISES [plural] – a blessed life / and ETERNAL life!
 - **I Corinthians 11:1** – “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”