

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 5:11-6:3 the author of Hebrews begins another warning passage by contrasting 2 spiritual states.

- I. Spiritual immaturity bears bad fruit.
  - A. Unable to receive solid teaching (5:11, 12 c).
  - B. Unable to teach others (5:12a).
  - C. Unable to remember the basics (5:12b).
  - D. Unable to skillfully apply the word (5:13).
  
- II. Spiritual maturity bears good fruit.
  - A. Able to receive solid teaching (5:14a).
  - B. Able to train powers of discernment (5:14b).
    - 1. by constant practice (5:14c).
    - 2. to distinguish good from evil (5:14d).
  - C. Able to continue maturing (6:1a).
    - 1. not rebuilding the foundation (6:1b),
    - 2. but building on the foundation (6:2),
    - 3. if the Lord wills (6:3).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 5, 2020

Passage: Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Memory Passage: Hebrews 5:12-14

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 5:11-6:3.** To what does “this” refer in the opening statement of 5:11, “About this?”
- (b) What does it mean that our author’s audience has “become dull of hearing?”
- (c) On what basis does our author assert, “by this time you ought to be teachers,” and what does he mean by “teachers” (i.e. everyone should be a formal teacher, that they should be able to teach others in discipleship, something else)?
- (d) How does the fact that our author’s audience needed “someone to teach (them) again” help us understand how they “became dull of hearing” (we’ll discuss the “basic principles” and what they are on Day 4)?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3.** In our context, to what do the metaphors of “milk” & “child” refer (5:12, 13)?
- (b) What is “the word of righteousness” and what does it mean to be “unskilled” in it?
- (c) What signs would accompany someone today who has “become dull of hearing,” “living on milk,” and “unskilled in the word of righteousness?”
- (d) Do you resemble any of these traits? If so, what difficulties have you incurred because of them, and if not, how will you avoid developing them?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 5:11-6:3.** In our context, to what does the metaphor of “solid food” refer (5:12, 14)?
- (b) Write a paragraph fully explaining the definition of mature believers given in 5:14 as “those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Be sure to work out all of the terms used, how they relate to one another, describe what they look like when maturity is being gained, how they relate to the definition of a child who is unskilled in the word of righteousness, what good and evil is in view, etc.
- (c) Does your own life resemble that of a child living on milk or a mature believer partaking of solid food? How do you know? What must you do to move toward maturity more directly and effectively?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb 5:11-6:3.** How does the “Therefore” that begins 6:1 connect 5:11-14 with what follows?
- (b) Explain each of the 6 topics mentioned in 6:1-2 which our author calls “the basic principles of the oracles of God” (5:11) & “the elementary doctrine of Christ” (6:1).
- (c) Does the phrase “let us leave” mean to abandon these teachings and change to something else? If not, what does it mean? Explain your answer from the context.

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 5:11-6:3.** Describe the tone of this passage and compare it with the tone of the book so far.
- (b) What do you learn from this passage concerning how to lovingly rebuke another brother or sister in Christ? What do you learn from this passage concerning how to receive a loving rebuke from another brother or sister in Christ?
- (c) Using the description of a mature believer found in this passage, assess your readiness (both in capability and willingness) to teach others about both the milkier basic principles and the meatier truths of the Christian faith.
- (d) Considering the truths found in 5:11-6:3, write down at least 4 new ways you will train your powers of discernment to distinguish good from evil during the next week.

DATE: July 5, 2020

PASSAGE: Hebrews 5:11-6:3

*Milk or Maturity?*