

Intro

- ~When were young everything is “up”
- ~ Hurry up, get up, shut up, wise up, look up, listen up, and finally....grow up
- ~ The writer to the Hebrew Christians is telling them to grow up – this the goal for them
- ~ Not only that but the write also tells why they haven’t grown up
- ~ There’s no mystery as to why they haven’t grown up...it’s their laziness when it comes to the word of God
- ~ We remember from 1 Peter 2:1-3 that Peter said to desire the word of God so that you can grow
- ~ So....the Hebrew Christians weren’t properly responding to the word so they can grow and mature
- ~ This morning we deal with the idea of going on to spiritual maturity
- ~ The text tells us the results of spiritual immaturity
- ~ Barclay says, The Hebrew Christians had an “A case of arrested development is always a pathetic thing”

Outline

V11 Problem = Spiritual (dull) hearing (WOG)

V12,13 Results of Dullness

- Need to be taught
- Need to learn ABC’s Unable to teach others
- Need skill in the word of God
- Need to grow up

V14 Result of Spiritual Maturity

- Discernment

Context

In the context of this chapter the author is trying to explain to the Hebrew Christians about Christ as a high priest

1 Earlier Christ is greater than angels, Moses and priesthood

2 Now he’s comparing Christ as a high priest to that of Melchizedek

V11 Problem = Dull hearers

~ This verse explains the subject of Melchizedek's relationship to Christ as an issue which is hard to explain. This was not because it was an unfamiliar subject. It was because they were slow to learn. This phrase highlights their slackness and dullness. (Holman New Testament Commentary)

~ Hard to be uttered = hard to interpret

~ The reason these things are hard to interpret is because they are “Dull of hearing “

~ Dull (nothros) sluggish, lazy

- Vincents - The verb implies a deterioration on the hearers' part
- Robertson = slow and sluggish in mind as well as in the ears.
- Hughes = "you have become sluggish in the ears."

~ If the Hebrews had been mature we would have learned more about Christ being a priest after the order of Melchisedec (v11)

Melchizedek (Melchisedec is referenced in Gen 14 and Ps 110:4)

~ Heb 7:1-4 Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (king of Salem), Melchizedek had no beginning, no ending, no father, no mother, he just appears out of nowhere

~ So the writer to the Hebrews wants to teach them about Christ’s priesthood and he’s using Melchizedek to help make the point

~ Heb 5:6 is a quote from Ps 110:4 Christ is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

~ Heb 5:10 Christ is called a high priest after the order of Melchizedek

~ So the author stops short of teaching what he wanted to teach regarding Christ’s priesthood because of their immaturity

~ When we get to Heb 7 either the author is 1) communicating less than he what he wanted to back in chapter 5 as he picks up the analogy of Melchizedek OR 2) Decides that he’s going to make the points anyways OR 3) finds he needs to go into the Melchizedek to make his point about Christ’s priesthood

V12,13 Results of being a dull hearer

- 1 Need to be taught
- 2 Need to learn ABC's Unable to teach others
- 3 Need skill in the word of God
- 4 Need to grow up

~ The idea of time is mentioned – so maturity to some degree involves time because enough time had had lapsed the writer thought the Hebrews should be able to teach the word to others

~ The length of time during which you have been believers

1 Need to be taught

~ Because of their length of time as believers they should have been able to teach others the basics of the faith but they needed to be taught them themselves

~ They need to be taught

2 Need to learn ABC's (basic teaching because of immaturity)

~ the first principles – referred to in Heb 6:1 where the idea is that we leave the first principles and go on to maturity

~ First principles = Primary elements

The first principles of the oracles of God

~ The word for principles (stoicheion), refers to the fundamental basics of the faith (the ABCs). This term was used elsewhere of the letters of the alphabet that a school child would learn. The author likens these basic principles of the faith to milk in contrast to solid food. Unfortunately the readers had not moved beyond the milk stage of spiritual growth. (Grace New Testament Commentary)

~ The author also mentions at least four areas of instruction that needed to be corrected in light of Messiah's ministry. The doctrine of baptisms (or washings) probably refers not to Christian baptism but to Levitical ritual washings (note the use of baptisma in the plural in 9:10). Purification by the blood of Christ has accomplished infinitely more than what Levitical washings did under the Old Covenant. The laying on of hands, formerly associated with the symbolic placing of one's sin on a sacrifice before it is slaughtered or sent outside the camp (Exod 29:10-19; Lev. 8:14-21; 16:21) or for the consecration of Levites for ministry (Num 8:10), now indicated placing one's blessing on a fellow Christian to send them out into the world for ministry (Acts 13:3-4). Even their understanding of resurrection (though taught in the OT, e.g., Dan 12:2) would have to be corrected in light of Christ's resurrection. All judgment was now given into His hands (John 5:22), and all are accountable to Him (2 Cor 5:10). (Grace New Testament Commentary)

~ The context of the book 1) the OT 2) the lesson taught in this book that come from the OT like Israel's journey to the promised land (Heb 3,4), the OT priesthood

- The message in the book of Acts is the OT interpreted through the Lord Jesus Christ
- Acts deals with Christ's death, burial and resurrection

~ and are become = implying degeneracy

~ Strong meat (stereos-4731=stiff, stable/ trophe-5160=nourishment, rations) Peter uses a similar in 1 Peter 5:9 when he says to resist the devil steadfast in the faith

V13

~ That uses = Metecho = shares or participates in

3 Need skill in the word of righteousness

~ unskilled = inexperienced or ignorant

~ Righteousness – Many possible interpretations 1) the gospel 2) Righteousness which is found in Christ 3) Righteousness which is imparted from Christ to the believer

~ Word of righteousness

- The idea of a spoken word is used in Heb 1:2 and 2:3

~ Babe = not able to talk), not able to chew if one uses only milk and is without teeth. Perhaps moral truth is meant by "word of righteousness" (cf. Heb_1:2; Heb_2:3 for the word spoken by Christ).

4 Need to grow up

~ A summary of this is they just need to grow up

~ As Hebrews 6:1 says, "let's go on to perfection"

V14 Results of Spiritual maturity

- 1 able to handle deeper teachings
- 2 able to discern

- ~ If you are skilled in the word of Righteousness it means you're able to discern between good and evil
- ~ This teaches me that if I want true discernment then I need to know the WOG
- ~ True discernment comes from understanding the WOG
- ~ Discernment comes from the meat of God's word
- ~ This Christian has experience using the WOG in life and therefore they know how to discern
- ~ Full age = adults as contrasted with infants
- ~ Their senses = organs of perception
- ~ exercise (gymnazo) training, practice, exercise
- ~ Discernment = "For deciding between", between what is wholesome and what is hurtful in teaching. The first evidence of maturity which the writer cites is ability to teach; the second, trained discernment of what is wholesome in doctrine. The one implies the other.
- ~ *Phil 1:9,10 "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; v10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ*
- ~ Stay constantly alert to distinguish good actions and beliefs from bad practices and teachings. (Holman NT)

Conclusion

- ~ Hebrews 6:1
- ~ Perfection is the Greek word (teleiotes) and it means completeness
- ~ Pythagoras of Samos (c. 570 – c. 495 BC) was an ancient Ionian Greek philosopher and the eponymous founder of Pythagoreanism. His political and religious teachings were well known in Magna Graecia and influenced the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, and, through them, Western philosophy.
- ~ Barclay - The King James Version translates this word perfection. But teleios (G5046), the adjective, and its kindred words have a technical meaning. Pythagoras divided his students into hoi (G3588) manthanontes (G3129), the learners, and hoi (G3588) teleioi (G5046), the mature. Philo divided his students into three different classes-- hoi (G3588) archomenoi (G756), those just beginning, hoi prokoptontes (G4298), those making progress, and hoi (G3588) teleiomenoi (G5048), those beginning to reach maturity. Teleiotes (G5047) does not imply complete knowledge but a certain maturity in the Christian faith.
- ~ This maturity means 1 growing in our knowledge of bible 2) reflecting the teachings of the bible in our life
- ~ So we come back to the root problem of spiritual immaturity – sluggish hearers

The antidote for sluggish hearing

- 1 Desire the word
 - *1 Pet 2:1 Desire the sincere milk of God's word that you may grow*
- 2 Pray for God to give you a desire for his word
- 3 Open up your bible and read
- 4 When you open your bible come to it with the mindset that this is the word of God and not just the newspaper
 - *Ezra 7:10 Ezra prepares his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it*
- 5 Come to God and his word hungry
 - *Matt 5:6 blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled*
- 6 Be more ready to hear than to speak
 - *Eccles 5:1 when you go to the house of God be more ready to hear*
 - *1 Sam 7:3 Samuel told the people to return to the Lord with all their hearts and put away their strange gods*
 - *Is 55:7 Let the wicked man forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and return to the Lord*
- 7 Apply the word to your lives
 - This is where we gain skill in the word of righteousness – by applying it
 - When we run into problems we should ask what does the bible say about this
 - What does the bible say about family, discouragement, sin, making decisions, etc

- ~ Spiritual immaturity hinders effectiveness in serving Jesus