

HEBREWS 5:11-6:3



SOLID FOOD!



OUR OUTLINE

I. THE ASSESSMENT AND THEIR DIFFICULTIES (5:11-14)

- A. Complexity of God's decree about Jesus as the eternal High Priest (11a)
- B. Sluggishness of hearing – reason for difficulties with God's Word (11b)
- C. Elementary instruction for infants (12-13)
- D. Advanced teaching for adults (14)

OUR OUTLINE

- II. THE TEACHERS EXHORTATION (6:1-3)
 - A. Leave elementary catechesis (1a)
 - B. God will lead them to His goal in teaching w/o repeating the foundational teachings (1b-2)
 - C. The declaration that God wants to advance them in what they learn from Him (3)

HEBREWS 5:1-6:3

IMAGE FROM THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD	COMPARSION TO EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	COMPARSION TO CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
INFANTS (5:13)	PRIMARY STUDENTS	NEW BELIEVERS
MILK (5:13)	ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN READING AND WRITING	CATECHESIS IN JESUS' WORD AND THE ARTICLES OF FAITH
MATURE ADULTS (5:14)	ADVANCED STUDENTS	MATURE BELIEVERS
SOLID FOOD (5:14)	INSTRUCTION IN INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL UNDERSTANDING	LITURGICAL INSTRUCTION ABOUT JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST AND THEIR SERVICE WITH HIM
ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD FOOD (5:14)	INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL DISCERNMENT	SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT
CURRICULUM	TEACHING OF ELEMENTS (5:12) FOUNDATIONAL ORACLES OF GOD (5:12) THE FOUNDATIONAL WORD OF JESUS (6:1)	TEACHING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (5:13)

THE CONTEXT

In Heb 5:11 – 6:20, the preacher now shifts from Old Testament exposition to exhortation. Thus, the preacher interrupts himself from teaching about Jesus, The High Priest; to personally addressing the congregation. His goal is to motivate them so that they will listen to God and what He has to say to and about them!

THE CONTEXT

We will see that the preacher's argument gives way to a personal and emotional appeal to the congregation!

He does not scold them; rather, the preacher explains to them positive and negative reasons why they must listen to God!

THE CONTEXT

The preacher appeals to their sense of shame! This we see today in our text...

Then he changes his method from shame to fear in 6:4-8 and then to hope in 6:9-20.

THE TEACHING

This pericope is filled with educational terminology; consequently, the preacher is using the catechetical method of the apostolic church.

He will use two valuable sources to teach the congregation:

1. The oracles of God (5:12), and;
2. The Word of Christ (6:1)

THE TEACHING

5:11

The preacher begins his teaching by admitting that God's decree about Jesus as The High Priest (cf. Ps. 110:4) is “profound” [still much to say] and “difficult to explain.”

THE TEACHING

5:11

What's the real difficulty?

The congregation is **slothful!** Some chides them for being **unable to spiritually discern; difficulty in apprehending!**

They are **complacent and unwilling** to apply themselves to **learning more of God's Word!**

THE TEACHING

5:12

What's the result?

Since the congregation has become slothful, this leads to them being mentally and spiritually immature.

No

Growth

THE TEACHING

5:12

They should actually be teachers of the faith, but instead they have lost what they have had...discernment!

So, they must be “re-catechized!”
They need to re-learn the foundational teachings of the faith that are listed in the following verses (6:1b-2).

THE TEACHING

5:13-14

These two verses contrast the congregation with those who hear the Word of God (adults); with those who can hear, but can't/won't understand (infants)!

The goal is to lead a disciple from elementary education (milk) to “the Word of righteousness” (solid food).

THE TEACHING

Let's review
Ephesians 4:14, 15



THE TEACHING

5:13-14

The essential nourishment, the Word of righteousness, will produce three important necessities:

2. The training of the senses!
Their power of moral and spiritual perception. So what they hear, they know is Truth. That leads them to hear, see, taste, and touch via their involvement in Divine Service!

THE TEACHING

5:13-14

The essential nourishment, the Word of righteousness, will produce three important necessities:

3. Through God's training in the Word of righteousness, they can distinguish between what is good and what is bad!

THE TEACHING

6:1-2

The preacher now changes from a detached exhortation; to joining with the congregation in exhorting “us” to accomplish three actions!

1. They all, including the preacher, needs to leave the foundational teaching of Christ as The High Priest and build on via advanced instruction!

THE TEACHING

6:1-2

2. All are invited “*to go on to perfection.*” This is the goal of their instruction...spiritual adulthood!

THE TEACHING

6:1-2

3. With God leading them, they will be able to fix six building blocks on the “*foundational teachings of the OT and the teachings of Jesus!*”

THE TEACHING

6:1-2

As you can see this structure is in “Catechetical Order!” In the Greek, it’s poetic and designed to be memorized!

Repentance

Faith in
God

Baptism

Laying on
of Hands

Resurrection
of the Dead

Eternal
Judgment

Old Testament

Teaching of
Jesus

THE TEACHING

6:3

This verse is a “commitment” verse! The preacher is exhorting the congregation “...*this we will do!*”

Yet, there is a caveat! *Only if God will permit it!* The congregation is to depend on the Lord to carry them along in their educational journey to the completion of their liturgical, spiritual formation!

SUMMARY

- This part of the sermon shows that the practice of catechesis was an established tradition in the first-century Church! The purpose of instruction was to prepare the adult candidates for Holy Baptism.

Together, with the Rite of Holy Baptism, catechesis laid the foundation for the Life of Faith!



NEXT WEEK

**BETTER
THINGS TO
COME!**

HEBREWS 6:4-12