

YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS

Hebrews 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has been teaching this Hebrew assembly many truths about Jesus Christ.
- 1) That Jesus Christ is their High Priest
 - 2) That they must enter into "rest"
 - 3) They must hold fast their profession
- B. Paul wanted to teach them many more truths
- 1) They did know all they needed to know about Jesus Christ by being born again.
 - 2) They were childish and thus immature
 - 3) It was their fault, not Pauls
- I. The Spiritual Condition Of These People
- A. They needed to know many things vs 11
- 1) *"Of whom we have many things to say"*
 - 2) *"hard to be uttered"* = δυσερμηνευτος = "difficult to explain", "difficult to interpret"
 - 3) *"Now on this subject I have much to say to you"* TENT
"but it is difficult to make it clear to you" Gspd
- B. They didn't desire make information
- 1) *"seeing ye are dull of hearing"*
 - 2) *"seeing"* = επει = "since", "because", "inasmuch"
 - 3) *"dull"* = νωθρος = "sluggish", "lazy", "slothful" The word was used to describe the numbed limbs of a sick lion. They were not stupid!
 - 4) *"ye are"* = γινομαι = "to become" They are not this way by nature. They are this way by default.
 - 5) *"hearing"* = ακοη = "the sense of hearing", "in reference to hearing"

II. The Reasons For Their Spiritual Condition

- A. They had grown and then become lazy vs 12
- 1) *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers,"*
 - 2) *"Though by this time you should be teaching other people"*
- B. *"ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principle of the oracle of God;"*
- 1) *"first" = αρχη = "beginning"*
 - 2) *"principles" = στοιχεια = "basic elements"* This refers to the foundational teachings of the Christian religion. They had forgotten them. A small rod or post of a sun-dial, or the shadow of it.
- C. *"and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."*
- 1) *"and you have gotten into such a state that you are in constant need of milk..."* Wms
 - 2) *"milk" = γαλα = The word can be compared to the rabbinical term, "suckling" referring to young students.*
 - 3) *"strong meat" = τροφη = "food" στερεος*
"solid" What adults eat as opposed to infants.
- D. They didn't use the Bible vs 13
- 1) *"For everyone who still has to use milk"*
 - 2) *"unskillful" = απειρος = "without making trial or attempt", "without experience"*
 - 3) *"Doesn't have enough experience to talk of what is right"*
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III. They Should Grow Into Maturity

- A. *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age"*
- 1) *"strong" = στερεος = "firm", "solid"*

- 2) "meat" = τροφή = "nourishment", "food"
 - 3) "full age" = τελειος = "complete", "mature" Those who assume adult responsibilities.
- B. *"even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil"*
- 1) εξις = "habit" = This habit has been acquired by past experience and is now a normal condition.
 - 2) "senses" = αισθητηριον = "faculty" It means the faculties or senses of perception.
 - 3) "exercise" = γυμναζω = "to train by exercise"
 - 4) "discern" = διακρισις = "distinguishing", "making a judgment between two things"
 - 5) "But solid food is for full grown men" Asv.
 - 6) "Who on account of their constant use have trained their faculties..."
 - 7) "To be able to distinguish what is right and what is wrong."

IV. Lessons We Should Learn

A. There are untold truths to learn

- 1) Untold in number
- 2) Untold in glory

B. Learning truth is its own incentive

- 1) Those who don't care cannot be tricked into caring
- 2) Those who care cannot be forced from truth
- 3) You don't have to beg hungry people to eat or coerce thirsty people to drink.

C. There is more to Christianity than "Jesus Saves"

- 1) We are now reaping a harvest of neglect
- 2) We did not teach the "all things"
- 3) Now we face a difficult task of doing God's work with an army of infants.

D. Christian maturity is not easily achieved

- 1) It is more than a tee shirt with some catchy phrase printed on it.
- 2) It is more than perfect attendance pins
- 3) It is more than one can get from motivational tapes and seminars.
- 4) It is not competition
- 5) It is not being a winner
- 6) It is a long and difficult process that involves the exercise of Christian endeavor, all of it, prayer, study, witnessing, giving, etc. and all in proper proportion and all in the way Jesus taught His disciples.

