

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Feb 2014

Hebrews

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Lesson #7: Spiritual Maturity

INTRODUCTION

How would you decide if someone is a spiritually mature Christian?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Note: Foundations of repentance in verses 6:1-2 are Old Testament rituals and concepts that pointed to the gospel. For example, in the Old Covenant, the person bringing a sacrifice had to put his hands on it to symbolize his identification with it (Lev 1:4; 3:8, 13). From the Old Testament we learn that resurrection is bodily as well as spiritual (Job 19:26) but we learn so much more from Christ. (Jn 11:25) If these passages are addressed to non-Christians, they imply that people are being offered salvation, but are in danger of turning it down so often that it will not be offered again (they will “lose” salvation). They get a “taste” (sample) of what it would be like to be saved, but have not “eaten” the bread of life. Jn 6:51 Herod is a good example of this. Mark 6:20

1. How would you describe the author's tone?
2. Would you say that he is more concerned about their *ability* to learn (stupid?) spiritual truth that would mature them or their *desire* to learn?
3. If this is directed to unbelieving Jews, how would the Old Testament fit the description of milk?
4. What does the author want the “babies” to do?
5. Why do some people stick with milk rather than meat?
6. How do you explain someone falling away from the faith? vs. 6 Does this imply that Christians can lose their salvation? 2 Cor 13:5; Matt 7:21-23
7. What is the “rain” referred to in verses 7 & 8? Mt 13:18-23
8. What are the pros and cons of using good works as a measure of spiritual maturity (or salvation)?
9. How does the church help people mature spiritually? How does it hinder?
10. What else can help people mature spiritually?

APPLICATION

How would God describe your spiritual appetite? How can you become more mature? Who can you help mature?

Unlike a knife, truth becomes sharper with use. Truth requires acceptance and obedience. A truth heard but not accepted and followed becomes meaningless and dull. Just as a child cannot digest a steak, the spiritual system needs to grow to handle that which is more difficult. A child can learn from a picture book, but learns nothing by looking at a textbook. A small child does what feels good but has to learn what is not good for him. He becomes discerning of what he eats, what he does and where he goes. With more maturity he learns where to take (and not take) his mind.

John MacArthur, New Testament Commentary