

## **Bible Study – Hebrews chapter 5:11-6:12 Warning Against Apostasy**

In our last study, we looked at Jesus as our High Priest, one who advocates for us as well as one who understands our temptations, struggles, and human frailties. Following in the order of Melchizedek, Christ is our High Priest forever.

In today's study, we will examine look at the warning that the writer is giving to his audience, namely to continue growing into Christian maturity and to avoid apostasy of their faith.

### **Read Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-12**

The writer seems to stop in his exposition of Jesus Christ and his role as a high priest in order to address his audience's laziness towards the Word of God, which reveals itself through their continued elementary understanding of their faith, rather than knowing the more advanced teachings. He then goes onto warn that there are those who will turn back on their faith in Christ, which will be to their detriment. The writer then concludes with an encouragement for his readers to strive and continue in their growth and perseverance of their faith.

**Q.** (v.11-14) When the writer says they have become "dull of hearing", what do you think that means (also, what does this look like) and how did they get there? Why do you think this is a dangerous condition to fall into? What are some things a Christian needs to do in order not to fall into this condition?

**Q.** (6:1-3) The writer lists six (6) elementary teachings that the readers are to leave behind. If you pair the teachings (e.g. 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6), what does each grouping represent? What do you think v.3 means and why is it significant?

**Q.** (4-8) The writer now describes there are some who have believed and experienced the goodness of their salvation, are now turning away. How would you describe apostasy? In v.4-5, it talks about the experiences of God's goodness to believers. Describe some of the goodness that you have experienced since coming to faith. Or if you are a non-believer, is there some goodness that you may have experienced in the presence of Christians? In v. 6, why is it impossible to restore fallen believers to repentance?

**Q.** (v.9-12) The writer gives the reader hope and encouragement so they can avoid falling away. What are some things that draw away your attention? What do you think you can do to make them less of a distraction? How can you make 'remaining faithful to God and waiting patiently' real in your life? How do you think you can help someone who is not maturing in their Christian walk?

The writer calls out the readers of Hebrews for the regression of their Christian life. Instead of teaching what they have learned and moving onto advance knowledge of God, they are stuck on the elementary teachings they once received. The writer also shows that this state can lead to apostasy, which is the willing rejection of God. When the Word of God no longer matters or has the same impact in a person's life (the dullness that he speaks of), that person may turn to other things which are contrary to the Word of God. This is something the writer wants all believers to avoid, especially since they have experienced the goodness of God in their lives from His blessings and gifts. He encourages them to persevere to the end, knowing that what Jesus has to offer is so much more superior than what this world has to offer.