



PART 22:
GROW UP

HEBREWS
PAY CLOSE ATTENTION, LEST YOU DRIFT

TWO SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES

1. “WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU TITHE MINT AND DILL AND CUMIN, AND HAVE NEGLECTED THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW: JUSTICE AND MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS. THESE YOU OUGHT TO HAVE DONE, WITHOUT NEGLECTING THE OTHERS. YOU BLIND GUIDES, STRAINING OUT A GNAT AND SWALLOWING A CAMEL! MT 23:23–24
2. HOW GREAT ARE YOUR WORKS, O LORD! YOUR THOUGHTS ARE VERY DEEP! THE STUPID MAN CANNOT KNOW; THE FOOL CANNOT UNDERSTAND THIS: THAT THOUGH THE WICKED SPROUT LIKE GRASS AND ALL EVILDOERS FLOURISH, THEY ARE DOOMED TO DESTRUCTION FOREVER; BUT YOU, O LORD, ARE ON HIGH FOREVER. PS 92:5–8

ONE POSSIBLE REASON ...

WE OFTEN READ THE BIBLE, HEAR THE NEWS, LISTEN TO A SERMON, OR TALK TO FRIENDS, YET WE DON'T GET MUCH OUT OF IT. ONE CENTRAL REASON FOR THIS MAY BE OUR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH. THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE MORE YOU SEE AND HEAR BECAUSE YOUR MIND BRINGS MORE TO THE TASK OF "SEEING AS" OR "SEEING THAT." IN FACT, THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT EXTRA BIBLICAL MATTERS, THE MORE YOU WILL SEE IN THE BIBLE. WHY? BECAUSE YOU WILL SEE DISTINCTIONS IN THE BIBLE OR CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SCRIPTURE AND AN ISSUE IN ANOTHER AREA OF LIFE THAT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONCEPTS AND CATEGORIES PLACED IN THE MIND'S STRUCTURE BY GAINING THE RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE IN THOSE EXTRA BIBLICAL AREAS OF THOUGHT. THUS, GENERAL INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT CAN ENRICH LIFE AND CONTRIBUTE TO BIBLE STUDY AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION.

J P MORELAND

HEBREWS 5:11-14

ABOUT THIS WE HAVE MUCH TO SAY, AND IT IS HARD TO EXPLAIN, SINCE YOU HAVE BECOME DULL OF HEARING. FOR THOUGH BY THIS TIME YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS, YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU AGAIN THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ORACLES OF GOD. YOU NEED MILK, NOT SOLID FOOD, FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES ON MILK IS UNSKILLED IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SINCE HE IS A CHILD. BUT SOLID FOOD IS FOR THE MATURE, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR POWERS OF DISCERNMENT TRAINED BY CONSTANT PRACTICE TO DISTINGUISH GOOD FROM EVIL.

UNSKILLED

- UNTRAINED IN WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – UNSKILLED, UNTRIED, UNPRACTISED – LIKE SENIOR FURNISHING WITH THEIR ABILITY – THEY KNOW STUFF BUT THEY CANT DO IT – NOT ASKING FOR HELP – THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WOODIES BECAUSE THEY CANT DO IT
- IT WASN'T THAT THEY ARE IMMATURE FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE – IMMATURE FOR LACK OF PRACTICE

WHAT IS MATURITY? WHAT IS THE STANDARD?

- WHAT IS IT TO BE MATURE SPIRITUALLY?
 - AND HE GAVE THE APOSTLES, THE PROPHETS, THE EVANGELISTS, THE SHEPHERDS AND TEACHERS, TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST, UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO MATURE MANHOOD, TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST ... EPHESIANS 4:11–13
 - FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES ON MILK IS UNSKILLED IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ... HEBREWS 5:13 SO BE SKILLED IN THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- BEING SKILLED WITH A SAW, KNIFE, FOOTBALL MEANS YOU CAN USE IT WELL

HEARING IS DULLED BECAUSE ...

- DISOBEDIENCE IS THE FRUIT OF FALSE WORSHIP:
 - WE BECOME WHAT WE WORSHIP
 - THEIR IDOLS ARE SILVER AND GOLD, THE WORK OF HUMAN HANDS. THEY HAVE MOUTHS, BUT DO NOT SPEAK; EYES, BUT DO NOT SEE. THEY HAVE EARS, BUT DO NOT HEAR; NOSES, BUT DO NOT SMELL. THEY HAVE HANDS, BUT DO NOT FEEL; FEET, BUT DO NOT WALK; AND THEY DO NOT MAKE A SOUND IN THEIR THROAT. THOSE WHO MAKE THEM BECOME LIKE THEM; SO DO ALL WHO TRUST IN THEM. PS 115:4–8

HEARING IS DULLED BECAUSE ...

- WE BELIEVE A LIE – UNRIGHTEOUSNESS SUPPRESSES TRUTH
 - FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN, WHO BY THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS SUPPRESS THE TRUTH ... THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE AND WORSHIPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER! AMEN. ROMANS 1:18,25



HEARING IS IMPROVED BY OBEDIENCE BECAUSE ...

- OBEDIENCE MOVES THEOLOGICAL TRUTH FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE
 - THIS SHALL BE THE SIGN FOR YOU, THAT I HAVE SENT YOU: WHEN YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT, YOU SHALL SERVE GOD ON THIS MOUNTAIN.” EXODUS 3:12





JOHN FRAME

OBEDIENCE IS NOT MERELY A CONSEQUENCE OF KNOWLEDGE BUT A CONSTITUTIVE ASPECT [COMPONENT] OF IT. WITHOUT OBEDIENCE, THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE, AND VICE VERSA.



PIPER ON MELCHIZEDEK

THE STARTLING TRUTH IS THAT, IF YOU STUMBLE OVER MELCHIZEDEK, IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU WATCH QUESTIONABLE TV PROGRAMS. IF YOU STUMBLE OVER THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION, IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU STILL USE SOME SHADY BUSINESS PRACTICES. IF YOU STUMBLE OVER THE GOD-CENTRED WORK OF CHRIST IN THE CROSS, IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU LOVE MONEY AND SPEND TOO MUCH AND GIVE TOO LITTLE. THE PATHWAY TO MATURITY AND TO SOLID BIBLICAL FOOD IS NOT FIRST BECOMING AN INTELLIGENT PERSON, BUT BECOMING AN OBEDIENT PERSON. WHAT YOU DO WITH ALCOHOL AND SEX AND MONEY AND LEISURE AND FOOD AND COMPUTER HAVE MORE TO DO WITH YOUR CAPACITY FOR SOLID FOOD THAN WHERE YOU GO TO SCHOOL OR WHAT BOOKS YOU READ.

APPLICATION

- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW
- THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE LORD IS FOR THOSE WHO FEAR HIM, AND HE MAKES KNOWN TO THEM HIS COVENANT. PSALM 25:14
- HIS TRUTH IS A WORD OF *RIGHTEOUSNESS* AND THOSE WHO MASTER ITS MESSAGE LEARN HOW TO *DISTINGUISH* GOOD FROM EVIL. THIS DOES NOT COME TO ANYBODY WITHOUT EFFORT. THESE SPIRITUAL FACULTIES HAVE TO BE TRAINED (*GEGYMNASMEN*A) AS IN A GYMNASIUM ... QUITE POSSIBLY ON MOST DAYS THEY QUIETLY PONDER A FEW VERSES AND SAY A QUICK PRAYER, BUT IT DOES NOT OCCUR TO THEM THAT THIS IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH. FAILING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR NEED OF IT, THEY SLOWLY LOSE THEIR DESIRE FOR IT. SOMEHOW OR OTHER, HOWEVER BUSY HE OR SHE MAY BE, EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO FIND A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

THOMAS CHARLES ON MELCHIZEDEK

I HAD SUCH A VIEW OF CHRIST AS OUR HIGH PRIEST, OF HIS LOVE, COMPASSION, POWER AND ALL- SUFFICIENCY, AS FILLED MY SOUL WITH ASTONISHMENT-WITH JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY. MY MIND WAS OVERWHELMED AND OVERPOWERED WITH AMAZEMENT. THE TRUTHS EXHIBITED TO MY VIEW APPEARED TOO WONDERFULLY GRACIOUS TO BE BELIEVED. I COULD NOT BELIEVE FOR VERY JOY. THE GLORIOUS SCENES THEN OPENED TO MY EYES WILL ABUNDANTLY SATISFY MY SOUL MILLIONS OF YEARS HENCE IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF THEM.