

# Hebrews 5:11-6:20

## “Jesus is Better Than Any Other Hope”

### Pastor Bruce Zachary

**Intro.** closet door – measure growth, how to measure spiritual growth?

**Subject:** Jesus offers a reliable hope

**Object:** Keep growing in Christ and know His hope.

**context:** warning vs falling away & rebuke re immaturity [prior warn re drift Ch2, unbelief Ch3]

#### I. The need for spiritual growth: [5:11-6:20]

##### A. Traits of those who don't grow [5:11-14]

**1. Spiritual apathy [11] dullness of hearing** wanted to talk more @

Melchizedek priesthood **become dull:** process of spiritual apathy, laziness > no longer able to hear/receive from God

**2. Unable to teach others [12]** rec'd long enough > should teach others but still needed to be taught the basics. Not all called to be teachers in the “big room” but all should be able to share/mentor others

**3. No desire for meat [13-14] only partake of milk** arrested spiritual development, no desire for meat of word. **Solid food [14]** spiritual maturity comes from living our faith: process of **applying** what we learn about God. **Discern good and evil:** true v. false doctrine

**2Tim. 5:15 false doctrine is anything that mischaracterizes Jesus**

**? Why do people get spiritually lazy?**

**4. Neglect to grow past the basics [6:1-3] note:** use the foundations to build upon leave elementary [1] grow past the basics [6 listed]

**i. repentance [1], faith in God [1], baptisms [2], laying on hands [2], resurrection of dead [3], eternal judgment [3]** for all who reject JC, Jew/Gentile

##### B. Those who don't grow tend to fall away and may not be saved [4-6]

**1. Religion that rejects Jesus as Lord cannot save**

**v. 4-5 who are the people who it is impossible to restore again [are they true believers, mere professors, or a hypothetical]? Once enlightened:** heard the gospel, **tasted Christ:** committed faith?, **partakers of HS:** **Jn.16:8** conviction of sin and need for Savior, **tasted word:** curious re gospel/min of JC, [**Jn. 6:26** people who followed JC re bread but did not receive Him]

**v.6 if they fall away:** not merely fall [backslide-temporary condition] but fall away [i.e reject Jesus] **can't renew to repentance:** no conviction re total rejection of JC

**v.6 crucifying, putting to shame** = present participles: can't be brought to repentance while rejecting. **Crucify Jesus again > put to shame:** Jews returning to animal sacrifices declare Christ's sacrifice was for nothing. Cf. JC died once and for all

## 2. A warning that if you wander too far, too often, and too long you may not find the way back to Christ and may not have been saved

**note:** purpose is not to frighten but to assure them, and encourage them to grow and abide

## 3. We believe that true believers can't lose salvation:

**1 Jn. 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life [Jn. 10:26-30, Rom 8:28-39].**

? What are some of the warning signs that often precede someone drifting from God?

## C. The Blessings of growth [7-20]

### 1. Results of growth: [7-10] Christ-like character (fruit) and confidence in salvation

v.7 true believers bring forth fruit varying degrees [Mt.13:8]

v.8 unbelievers don't bring forth fruit

v.9 you: true believers > better things- salvation

v.10 works are evidence of faith [Ja.2:26]

### 2. Requirement for growth: [11-12] enduring zeal for God

v.11 exhort to zeal > assurance of hope of salvation

v.12 don't become sluggish: apathy re faith

> sluggish: translated dull 5:11

### 3. Reliability of growth [13-20] those who grow are secure in Christ

#### i. God's promise of salvation is reliable (13-18)

v.13 God promised Abraham, swore by Himself, no one or thing greater to swear by

v.14 Gen.22:16-17 promise of offspring/ descendants, Abraham had to wait 25 years

v.15 Abe had to believe & endure [not perfect faith (Hagar) but did not depart), came to pass

v.16 When men take an oath it resolves the conflict, how much more should we trust God

v.17 What God promises will surely come to pass [v.9 promise of salvation]

heirs of promise: true believers, like Abraham, receive promise

v.18 two unchangeable things to rely upon: God's word, and His promise

ii. **Jesus' hope is reliable [18-20] who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.**<sup>19</sup> This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil,<sup>20</sup> where the forerunner has entered for us, **even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

Our hope in Christ is an anchor for our soul that keeps us from drifting from God [19].

Jesus has gone before us into God's Presence as a forerunner that we might follow [20-21]

Cf. Old Testament High Priest was not followed into the Holy of Holies.

Jesus is like Melchizedek His priesthood does not end [20] [Cf. Levites], so he always intercedes for us. We rely on His work not ours, but prove our reliance by growing in Him.

? What tips would you give for growing closer to Jesus?

**Conc: Keep growing in Christ and know His hope.**