

Jewish believers were being **persecuted** & were thinking about **giving up** on Christianity

Someday life may be **painful** enough that you want **to give up – on God – on life!** **Instead** you **must draw closer** to God than ever

The writer is trying to show Jewish believers that **Jesus** is **better** than every **facet** of **Judaism**

Jesus is better than the **prophets**

Jesus is better than the **angels**

Jesus is better than the **Moses**

Jesus is better than the **Joshua**

Jesus is better than a **Sabbath day,**

Jesus is better than the Levitical (Aaronic) **priest**

The book of Hebrews has **five serious warnings** for believers

- 1) **Warning #1.** Don't **drift away** from the solid truths of God's Word
 - 1) Believers can**not** escape Satan's **pitfalls** **if** they ignore what God has said.

2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we **drift** away from it.

V.2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,

V.3 how shall we escape if neglect **so great a salvation?** After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

*I remind you that **the "salvation"** spoken of here is **not just** missing hell & going to heaven. It is the salvation package that is being spoken of (i.e. **justification – sanctification – glorification**)

- 2) **Warning #2.** The **second warning** – be careful that **sin** doesn't **harden** your **heart**.

3:12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, **unbelieving** heart, in **falling away** from the living God.

V.13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest anyone of you be **hardened** by the **deceitfulness of sin.**)

*Sin **always** **hardens** men's hearts

*Sin is never **neutral** – never **benign** – always **destructive**

- 3) **Warning #3.** The **third warning** – is a caution against “**remaining**” **spiritually immature** due to **sluggishness** / **lethargy** – **5:11-6:20**
 a) We will begin that today

Review:

The priesthood of Aaron foreshadows the priesthood of Christ

- 1) But the Aaronic priesthood was **limited** in **typology**
- 2) Christ was **n't** from the **line** of **Aaron** – **only** Aaron's descendants qualified to be **priest** – **Christ** was **n't** in Aaron's line
- 3) **Christ** was **n't** from the tribe of Levi – **all priest required** to **come** from tribe of Levi
- 4) **No one** in Aaron's line could be a **king** – they were **only priest**
- 5) So the Aaronic (Aaron's line) order of priest could **only** **paint** a **faint picture** of the coming Priest/King
- 6) **If** there was going to be a **better** earthly **picture** of the **divine, kingly, priesthood** of **Christ** it would have to come from **somewhere else**
- 7) **And it does!!**

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness;

3 and because of it he is obligated to offer *sacrifices* for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.

4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but *receives it* when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE";

6 just as He says also in another *passage*, "THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

V.10 (NP)

10 *being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.*

- 1) "being designated...as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek"
 - a) The writer begins to describe for them the priesthood of Melchizedek
 - b) **But he STOPS midstream – there is a problem! V.11**

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

V.11 *Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

- 1) "Concerning him we have much to say"
 - a) Can't tell if the "him" is Christ or Melchizedek
 - b) But the writer has "much to say" to them concerning **spiritual truths**

- 2) "it is hard to explain"
 - a) There are **4 types of "believers"** in this room
 - i) **1. Healthy Babies** b/c they haven't been saved very long
1 Pet.2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may **grow** in respect to salvation,
3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

 - ii) **2. Weak believers** – those who **want** to do **right** but **never** get there
 - (1) Because they haven't been exposed to sound teaching
 - (2) Their personal makeup is weak
1 Cor.8:9 But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.
1 Thes.5:14 And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

 - iii) **3. Mature believers** – not perfect but **living & growing** spiritually
2 Cor.2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;
1 Cor.14:20 (NP)

1 Cor.14:20 Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.

iv) 4. **Fleshly believers** – These are believers who should be on a high plane w/ God & aren't

1 Cor.3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to **babes** in Christ.
2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able

b) This brings up a **point** I don't stress often enough

i) Teaching can't be the **same** for **everyone**

c) If I seem **too elementary** in my **teaching** – be **patient** – **rejoice** in truth being taught

d) If **teaching** seems to be **over your head** – ask God to show you the truths & let go of what is too deep at the moment

e) For I'm obligated to feed the **lambs** & the **sheep**

Jn.21:15^(after resurrection) So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My lambs.**"

V.17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

*Everyone needs to be fed!

V.11 x Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

1) "since you have become dull of hearing"

a) Plato used the same word "dull" calling some students "stupid"

b) These are believers who **should be mature** but – still infants

c) They had been mature at some point but regressed

d) Where are you in your walk – honest appraisal

e) Being infants – **deprives** you of **knowing** things God wants you to know

V.11 "Concerning him we have **much to say**...but dull of hearing"

V.12 (NP)

V.12 For though *by this time you ought to be teachers*, you *have need again* for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

1) "by this time you ought to be teachers"

a) These folks had been **saved** for an **extended period** of time

b) They shouldn't all be teaching a class – but all should be able to teach younger believers

i) **These folks couldn't carry** their own weight in a **spiritual conversation**

2) "you have need **again**"

a) Once upon a time they had **known** the **deeper truths** but lost them

b) **Somewhere** along the way they **lost touch** w/ what was important

i) You will **not maintain** spiritual knowledge if spiritually **inactive**

c) They must have quit looking into the Word of God

d) They had begun **to look** at what was **not important**

Mt.6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

e) They **quit meeting** as believers **w/ a purpose**

Eph.4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

14 **As a result**, we are **no longer** to be **children**, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

f) That happens when we fall into sin –

i) You can **lose sensitivity** to the **word**

Col.2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, **rather than** according to Christ.

- ii) There is a **danger** in **deceiving yourself** into thinking you are **studying Bible & growing when you are not**
2 Pet.3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the **error** of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness,
18 but **grow** in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- iii) **Don't** allow anything to **substitute** for the **word of God**
Eph.5:6 Let no one deceive you with **empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (we call them **illustrations**)
- iv) Paul warned Timothy of this very same thing
1 Tim .6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and empty chatter* *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"--
21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.
- v) Sadly our pulpits are full of stories
1 Tim.4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables(μῦθος) fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
- vi) It is easy to become **dull of hearing** b/c **nothing** is being **said**
2 Tim.2:16 But avoid worldly *and empty chatter*, for it will **lead to further ungodliness**,
*Causes hearing to slowly become dull

V.13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

- 1) "who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness"
 - a) It is our **obligation** to feed on the Word
 - b) If you want a 3 point message to last you a week – sad!
 - i) Those are geared for people who don't want to think about the Word on their own
- c) We greatly distress God when we ignore what He has said to us
1 Thes.5:19 (NP)

1 Thes.5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;
20 do not despise prophetic utterances^(written Word today)
21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which
is good;
22 abstain from every form of evil.

V.14 But *solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.*

1) "solid food is for the mature"

a) God has a banquet of deep truths for us

1 Cor.2:6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are **mature**; a wisdom, however, **not** of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

2) "because of **practice** have their senses **trained** to discern good and evil"

a) There is a training that is to take place

b) We get our priorities mixed up – don't we?

1 Tim.4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. **On the other hand, discipline**^(exercise – we get our word gym from it) yourself for the purpose of

godliness;

8 for bodily discipline^(exercise – we get our word gym from it) is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

c) It is important that we be able to spiritually discern right & wrong

Phil.1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,
10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and **blameless** until the day of Christ;

2 Pet.2:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
2 of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
3 And this we shall do, if God permits.
4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,
5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.
7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;
8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.
9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.
10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.
11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,
12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,
14 saying, " I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU, AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."
15 And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.
16 For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute.
17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,
18 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.
19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,
20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

a) **HE is worth it! Our Salvation is a Person – not a system**

- b) He loves us enough to pay the price He paid for you & me
- c) Now is not the time to give in – It is the time to turn to Him **for grace** to **carry on!**

- 1 Cor.3:2** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ.
- 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,
- 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
- 1 Pet.2:2** like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is **not** accustomed to **the word of righteousness**, for **he is a babe**.

14 But **solid food** is for the **mature**, who **because of practice** have their senses **trained** to **discern** good and evil.

“you don’t move on “from” / “after” Christ – you move on “into” Christ