

There are 5 grave warnings to believers

- 1) **Warning #1.** Don't **drift** away from the solid truths of God's Word
  - a) Believers can **not** escape Satan's **pitfalls** **if** they ignore what God has said.
    - i) Found in chapter 2
- 2) **Warning #2.** The **second warning** – be careful that **sin** doesn't **harden** your **heart**.
  - a) Sin always hardens the heart
    - i) Chapter 3
- 3) **Warning #3.** The **third warning** – is a caution against "**remaining**" **spiritually immature** due to **sluggishness** / **lethargy** – **5:11-6:20**
  - a) Spiritual immaturity is not acceptable
    - i) Chapter 5&6
- 4) The writer of Hebrews is **about to reveal** some **deep spiritual truths** concerning Christ –
- 5) Then he **stops** and tells them **he can't say** what he would like to say –
- 6) Because they **wouldn't understand**

### Hebrews 5:11 (NP)

**Heb.5:11** 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.

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 your **obligation** to feed on the Word
  - b) If you want a **3 point message** to last you a week – sad!
    - i) **3 point messages** are **basically** geared toward people who can't think for themselves
  - c) We greatly distress God when we ignore what He has said to us
    - 1 Thes.5:19** Do not quench the Spirit;
    - 20 do not despise prophetic utterances<sup>(written Word today)</sup>
    - 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) "who because of **practice** have their senses **trained** to discern good & evil"

a) The word "**trained**" is the word we get gymnasium from

b) There is a training that is to take place

c) **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** (<sup>exercise-gymnasium</sup>) yourself for the purpose of godliness;

8 for bodily discipline (<sup>exercise-same root word</sup>) 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.

d) Everyone exercises their inner man in some way

i) Some exercise inner man wrong way

**2 Pet.2:14 (NP)**

**2 Pet.2:14** having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained (<sup>exercise</sup>) – we get our word **gymnasium** from it) in greed, accursed children;

**\*it is easier for that type person to be bad than good**

e) **How** can we **live successfully w/out being 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,  
V.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.1:16** 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.

**Hebrews 6**

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,

- 1) "Therefore"
  - a) Chapter break not best
  - b) What is the "Therefore" there for? – b/c you can't live right w/out discernment
  - c) Will never have good discernment w/out spiritual maturity
- 2) "leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ"
  - a) It is proper to stay w/ the elementary things of Christ when dealing w/ lost person
    - 1 Cor.2:2** For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
  - b) It is not proper to stay w/ elementary teaching as a believer
- 3) "let us press on to maturity"
  - a) **Present, passive, subjunctive**
  - b) Let us be born along unto maturity – let us be carried on
    - i) It is God who matures us thru His Word
    - ii) You can't mature yourself
- 4) "not laying again a foundation"
  - a) Must have good foundation
  - b) But foundation is only the beginning
  - c) He lays out 6 foundational truths that are absolutely sure
  - d) But no man can stay there & reach maturity

6:1 x 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,

- 5) **#1** "repentance from dead works"
  - a) It doesn't say what the **NIV** says it says
    - 6:1(NIV)** Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,
  - b) Is speaking of works that have no life in them – not necessarily bad works
  - c) It doesn't say anything anywhere about acts "**that lead to death**"
  - d) Simply works that have no value
  - e) This is a **statement of contrasting ideas** – like Proverbs
  - f) Next phrase is the contrast

- 6) **#2** "faith toward God"
  - a) This is the **opposite** of **dead works**
  - b) Trusting God will be something you will work on as long as on earth
    - i) **Trusting God** is **imperative** to Christian life – but it is foundational
    - ii) **Maturity is learning how**
    - iii) Who would argue that we are to trust Him?

V.2 of *instruction about washings*, and *laying on of hands*, and *the resurrection of the dead*, and *eternal judgment*.

- 1) **#3** "instruction about washings"
  - a) The word is actually "**baptisms**"
  - b) The **Jewish believers** had **ceremonial washings & baptisms** to think thru
  - c) Baptism is important –
    - i) You can't grow but so much w/out being baptized
    - ii) But it is elementary
- 2) **#4** "laying on of hands"
  - a) This was practiced more Church - & Jewish rituals
 

**1 Tim.4:14** Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. <sup>(Spurgeon)</sup>

## **#5** Resurrection of the dead (NP)

- 3) **#5** "the resurrection of the dead"
  - a) The Jews believed in the resurrection of the dead
    - i) Had very little Scripture to go from
  - b) But their knowledge of resurrection was very basic
    - i) It is one of the foundational truths of Christianity (elementary)
  - c) That is why **Martha knew so little** about resurrection when Christ ask her if she knew her brother would be raised
 

**Jn.11:23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother shall rise again."  
24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."
- 4) **#6** "eternal judgment"
  - a) There is **very little on eternal "judgment"** in **O.T.**
    - i) There is quite a bit on earthly judgment – not eternal judgment

b) **Daniel is perfect example** of basic understanding

**Dan.12:2** "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

**\*no indication that this verse covers over 1000 year time frame**

c) To know there is a judgment someday is elementary

d) These are all basic truths – we need to know – but there is so much more

1) **Where are you** in your Christian walk?

2) **Are you still a babe** in Christ?

3) **Isn't it time** to allow the Holy Spirit to carry you to maturity?

4) When you see Him face to face – don't you want to be a mature believer?

5) Next week we look at the most feared verses in Scripture

6:3 And this we shall do, if God permits.

V.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,

V.5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

V.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.

V.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;

V.8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.