

## **Introduction**

Title: Maturity

Passage: Hebrews 5:11-14

### **Introduction: author and audience**

- Author is unknown
  - Likely Paul
- Audience is unknown
  - Jewish Christians

### **Introduction: main purpose of the book**

- Highlight the preeminence of Christ
  - Jesus is better than the angels
  - Jesus is better than Moses
  - Jesus is better than the high priests
  - Jesus is the better sacrifices

### **Introduction: summary of main argument**

- The Revelation
  - The Law revealed from angels was not complete
  - Revelation through Jesus was complete
- The hope of rest
  - Moses led them into a promised rest, but it was not eternal
  - Jesus provides eternal heavenly rest in God's presence

### **Introduction: summary of main argument**

- The priestly system
  - Priest were sinners needing offerings, and mortal needing to be replaced
  - Jesus is sinless needing no offering, and eternal needing no replacement
- Sacrificial system
  - Sacrifices presented yearly in an Earthly Temple
  - Jesus presented himself a sacrifice in heaven once and for all

## **Context**

**Context: 5:1-10**

- Jesus is better than the high priests
  - The priests were sinners
  - Jesus is sin apart
  - The priests were mortal
  - Jesus is an eternal priest
  - - after the order of Melchizedek
- Melchizedek
  - Genesis 14:18 - Priest of the most high God who gave Abraham bread and wine, and blessed him.
  - Psalm 110:4 - The Messiah will be an eternal priest after the order of Melchizedek

**Context: v11 - dull hearing**

- Of whom we have many things to say
  - Melchizedek
- Hard to utter
- Ye are of dull hearing

**Context: change of flow - pause with warning**

- Author wants to teach them more about Jesus the high persist
  - He pauses the Melchizedek discussion
  - He will pick back up in 6:20
- Author warns against
  - Immaturity
  - Apostasy

**Verse by verse observation**

Read passage through  
 4 observations  
 15 min

**Observation: pupil and teacher**

- V12
  - For when the time you ought to be teachers
  - You need to be taught the basics
- Pupils and teachers
  - Pupil - Need to be taught
  - Ought to be teachers

**Observation: milk and meat**

- V12
  - Need milk , Not strong meat
- V13
  - Those who use milk are unskillful
- V14
  - Strong meat is for adults
- Milk and meat
  - Contrast between milk and meat
  - Connecting them to skill and age

### **Observation: age**

- V13
  - Unskillful
  - He is a babe
- V14
  - Strong meat belongs to them that are full of age
- Age
  - Contrast between babe and an adult
  - Connecting skill

### **Observation: exercise**

- V14
  - By reason of use
  - Senses are exercised
  - Discern good and evil
- Exercise
  - Use and exercised are action words
  - The thing being used is the word of righteousness
  - The result is discern good and evil

### **Observation: summary**

- Summary of observations
  - Pupil and teacher
  - Milk and meat
  - Age
  - Exercise

### **Interpretation**

3 sets of questions and answers

### **Interpretation: questions**

- Does the context modify the meaning of any of the observations?
- What was the author directly saying?
- Are there any indirect principals taught?

### **Interpretation: answer context**

- Milk
  - was outdated Jewish teachings
  - The law and the sacrificial system
- Meat
  - was word of righteousness
  - How Jesus makes you righteous
- Babe
  - was a Jewish Christian unskillful in the word of righteousness
  - Clinging to the now completed systems

### **Interpretation: direct meaning of passage**

- The direct meaning of this passage is to teach the Jewish Christians
  - Jesus fulfilled the law
  - Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system
- The purpose of the old teaching has been completed
  - The law shows sin
  - The sacrificial system points to a future and ultimate putting away of sin
- We are to follow the new teaching
  - The word of righteousness shows the son
  - Sin has been forever put away

### **Interpretation: answer principals - immaturity**

- Immature Christians
  - Were defined as: Pupil, unskilled, babe, weak
  - Need to be taught the basics
  - Unskilled in the word of righteousness
  - Juvenile, under the basic teachings
  - Are not exercised to discern good and evil

### **Interpretation: answer principals - maturity**

- Mature Christians
  - Were defined as: Teacher, skilled, grown, exercised
  - Teach others

- Skilled in the word of righteousness
- Grown up, surpassed the basics
- Exercised to discern good and evil

### **Application**

5 total points

1 based on direct meaning

4 based on indirect principles

### **Application: direct meaning of passage**

- We are to follow the new teaching of the word of righteousness
  - The purpose of the law was to show sin
  - The purpose of the sacrificial system was to cover sin
  - Jesus bore sin in his body, taking it away forever
  - The purpose of the law and the sacrificial system is complete

### **Application: principal - be a pupil then a teacher**

- Master the word of God
  - Understand
  - Memorize
  - Test yourself
  - Review what you know
- Pupil then teacher
  - Learn the word of God
  - Don't become stagnate
  - Then teach the word of God

### **Application: principal - do the work, it's good for you**

- Milk compared to Meat
  - Preparing meat requires skill
  - Eating meat is work, compared to sucking milk
  - Meat Promotes growth
  - If you don't eat meat regularly you become malnourished
- Word of righteousness
  - Studying the word of God requires skill and work
  - The word of God promotes spiritual growth
  - Avoiding the word of God regularly will leave you spiritually malnourished
- Do the work, it's good for you

### **Application: principal - grow up**

- Babe
  - Babies are fed, adults feed themselves
  - Babies have no teeth to chew
  - Babies can only digest milk
- Grow up
  - Independence - do not solely depend on others for your Bible study
  - Expand your pallet - Develop a taste for deeper studies
  - Form teeth - chew on the word, meditate and think on it. Don't just read it cold

**Application: principal - be exercised**

- Read your Bible regularly
  - Build up the practice of using your Bible
  - Build up endurance, going deeper as you progress
  - Learn to be faithful
- Obey the Bible always
  - The end result should be more than satisfying curiosity
  - It will lead to discernment, knowing good from evil
  - Which leads to obedience

**Conclusion**

- Jesus completed the law and sacrificial system
- Be a pupil then teacher
- Do the Work, it's good for you
- Grow up
- Be exercised