

Previously we learned the writer declared Jesus the Christ not only to be superior to Moses, but also to be the new and only high priest, in the high order not of Aaron, but of Melchizedek. And, he continued his warnings about the implications of disobedience and unbelief. Previously, the writer had written about believers drifting away; in chapters 4&5 he emphasized and re-emphasized God's wrath for those who disobey. Bottom-line: drifters will not enter into God's "rest, i.e., His dwelling place."



This week we see Holy Spirit inspired the author to challenge our understanding of soteriological security. When one is a "seasoned believer," it is all too easy to become lackadaisical, if not downright blasphemous given our theological complacency.

And, when one considers the paradox of Scripture's witness to soteriological security (see pages 7 & 8), our confidence in our knowledge fades appropriately. Nothing poisons the Christian *raison d'être* more than unseemly confidence in what we know, as opposed to Who we know.

The Hebrews writer is concerned about those who have known the truth, and what will happen if they fall away. Holy Spirit's message is clear—*keep on keeping on*. Not a small issue then, nor is it now. We humans often become addicted to milk (see Appendix A: HOW TO KNOW IF ONE HAS BECOME ADDICTED TO MILK). Milk addicts us to the elementary teachings about Christ and delays our spiritual maturity, prevents our repentance and stunts our faith in the Lord God, among other matters spiritual.

## CONTEXT — HEBREWS 5:7-14

When Christ was on earth as Jesus, He prayed loudly, tearfully, and fervently for Father God to rescue Him from death. He was heard—His reverent submission to His purpose was learned through obedience within a context of suffering. And, once completed, He became *the* source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him. Father God designated Him to be High Priest, in the order of Melchizedek.

There's a lot more to say about Christ being our new High Priest, but you're slow to grasp the significance of this change. Actually, by now you should've been teaching, but you still need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word *all over again*. You still need milk—not solid food.

When you live on milk alone, you're a spiritual infant, not ready for the meaty teachings about righteousness. Solid food is for mature believers who constantly apply their knowledge and thereby train themselves to distinguish good from evil.

- Q Why was the Christ rescued from death? So?
- Q What was the result of this obedience during suffering?
- Q Why are some believers slow to learn and thus fail to become teachers of the Word?
- Q What are some examples of spiritual milk to which believers can become addicted? And meaty food which matures the believer so he/she can distinguish between that which is righteous and that which is not righteous?

### HEBREWS 5:7-14

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

<sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him <sup>10</sup> and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

<sup>11</sup> We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

## SOME KEY ISSUES FOR HEBREWS 6

Hebrews 6:1-8. *Failing to mature within Christ disgraces Christ publicly.* We need to leave behind the elementary teachings and proceed to maturity. Otherwise we're going to be stuck teaching about baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And, Lord willing, we will persevere in proceeding to more meaty subjects of the gospel. Remember, it is impossible for people who:

- have tasted His heavenly gift
  - have been lit up by Holy Spirit
  - tasted the goodness of the word of God
  - tasted the powers of the coming age
- to be brought back to repentance, if they fall away.

Their falling away crucifies the Son of God all over again, thus making Him the object of public disgrace—

“Yep, those Christians; they often go back to their old ways—eating their own vomit, wallowing in their old mud pits. Christ sure did a lot of good in their lives—right.”

God blesses those who use the great reign of God falling upon them to produce a crop which glorifies the Lord God. But, for those who produce thorns and thistles—they are worthless, in danger of being cursed. In the end, they will be burned.

- Q What is the *purpose* of spiritual milk? Meaty spiritual food?
- Q How do you account for the fact that much of division within the body of Christ is over these “elementary subjects?”
- Q Which of the subjects in verses 1&2 give *you* the most angst? Bother the *body* the most?
- Q What are the characteristics of those who are prone to fall away? Which do you find most common in the church? How can we facilitate staying within the fold?
- Q Why is it impossible for a person to come back to repentance if they have fallen away?
- Q What does their falling away do to the public persona of Jesus the Christ?
- Q Why will God burn those who have produced thistles and thorns? What are these thistles and thorns? What is a good crop from land immersed by God’s reign?
- Q Just what does it mean to be cursed by God? [Hint: consider the opposite of being cursed.]

### HEBREWS 6:1-8

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 [or *from useless rituals*], and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup>instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And God permitting, we will do so.

<sup>4</sup>It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup>who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, <sup>6</sup>if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

<sup>7</sup>Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup>But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

## SOME KEY ISSUES FOR HEBREWS 6:9-20

Hebrews 6:9-20. *The God we serve is just—He keeps His promises.* While our speech to you has been tough regarding things which accompany salvation, we are nonetheless confident. Our God is just—He does not forget His promises nor our work and our love for Him as we help others.

We want each of you to be diligent to the very end—to make your hope sure. We don't want you to become lazy—emulate those whose faith and patience have inherited what the Lord God has promised.

Don't forget, God's promises are not a future event. Unlike people promises, when God promises, it is, period. So when God promised Abraham, the Lord God swore His oath on Himself—there is no greater one by whom to vow. And, of course, God did indeed bless Abraham with many descendants.

People of course swear by someone greater than themselves—their oath confirms the agreement, and ends further debate. So people would understand, the Lord God confirmed His promise also with an oath.

You see, it is impossible for God to lie; we can, therefore, take great courage in and be encouraged by His promises to us, Abraham's descendants; i.e., those who are *ev* Christ (Galatians 3:26-29). Thus, we have this hope as an anchor for the soul—a firm and secure anchor. Our hope enters the holy of holies where Jesus the Christ went and entered on our behalf. He is the new High Priest, in the order of Melchizedek.

- Q What is there about our "diligence to the end" which makes our "hope sure?"
- Q What are signs of a "lazy" believer? So what? What is there about "faith and patience" we should emulate to overcome this "laziness?"
- Q Why did the Lord God need to swear on Himself when making promises to Abraham and us?
- Q What is the hope of which the Hebrews writer spoke in verse 19? What makes this anchor for the soul firm and secure?
- Q Why is it important to remember High Priest Christ is of the order of Melchizedek?

### HEBREWS 6:9-20

<sup>9</sup>Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. <sup>10</sup>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. <sup>12</sup>We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

<sup>13</sup>When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." [Genesis 22:17] <sup>15</sup>And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

<sup>16</sup>Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup>Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup>God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup>We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

## TOP TEN SIGNS OF MILK ADDICTION



*You Know You're Addicted to Milk When You:*

*The Lactose Intolerant...*



- 
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Think the purpose of the church is to provide worship services for its members.                            | 1. Know <u>the</u> purpose of the church is to glorify God; everything else we do is a means to accomplish this purpose. (Genesis 1-Revelation 22)  |
| 2. Pledge allegiance to the flag because it's patriotic to do so.   | 2. Pledge allegiance to the flag because it's the <u>Godly</u> thing to do. (Romans 13)   |
| 3. Are still unsure about the purpose and nature of baptism.  | 3. Realize baptism neither saves, nor cleanses; it is obedience which "fulfills all righteousness." Your obedience testifies to the whole world, and reminds you, that Jesus the Christ died and was resurrected! (Matthew 3:15; Colossians 2:12) |
| 4. Are addicted to proclaiming the shortcomings of others.  | 4. Are addicted to confessing my shortcomings to He who will cure them. (Matthew 7:3-5; 1 John 1:9)   |
| 5. Think Logos Academy and Logos Prep Bible study classes are just for ... Don't have time for Logos classes. | 5. Know Logos Academy and Logos Prep classes are necessary for our Bible study faculty and vital for any who want to break their addiction to milk. (Hebrews 5:12)  |
| 6. Believe Bible study is what you do on Sunday mornings at 9am.  | 6. Read, (Rev 1:3) <u>chew</u> , (John 6:53) and teach (Hebrews 5:12) the Word <u>all</u> the time. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)   |
| 7. Think your faith is what saves you.  | 7. Know faith is easy--all have faith in something. And, even if our faith is in the Lord God, <u>our</u> faithfulness is insufficient; God is the faithful One. <u>His</u> faithfulness is what saves us. (Psalm 33:4)                           |
| 8. Think all sins are equal in severity.  | 8. Recognize there are indeed some sins greater than others. (John 19:11)   |
| 9. Believe "little" sins are more "forgivable."   | 9. Know even "little" sins make us unholy before the Holy One (James 2:10)  |
| 10. Say "Once saved, always saved."   | 10. Say "Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" and "No one can snatch [me] out of My Father's hand." (Ephesians 1:14; John 10:29)  |
-