

The Promise: Warning #3

Hebrews 5:11-14

INTRODUCTION:

- **Charles Simeon**, *“THERE is in the Holy Scriptures a great diversity of truths suited to the various states and capacities of men. There are some so plain and simple, that “he who runs may read” and understand them: there are others so deep and mysterious, that persons of the strongest intellect and most extensive erudition are utterly lost in the contemplation of them. In human sciences, men of genius and penetration have a great advantage over those of a less cultivated and comprehensive mind; because the strength of their faculties enables them to prosecute their researches to a far greater extent than the others can: but in divine knowledge, it is not the most learned, but the most humble and heavenly-minded, person, that will make the greatest progress.”*

I. The Subject of Concern (v.11)

- A. The subject (“About this...”)
 - 1. The supremacy of Christ as Priest
 - 2. Specifically about the order of Melchizedek (coming in **Chp.7**)
 - 3. The writer wants to go deeper into these glorious matters, but cannot because of the hearer’s immaturity
- B. The need (“much to say”)
 - 1. Of great import for the purity of the gospel in the church

- 2. Careful explanation is important (exposition implied)
- C. The problem (“you have become dull of hearing”)
 - 1. Sluggish, lazy listening (**v.2**)
 - 2. Truth demands to be heard and responded to (a lack of response is dullness and guarantees immaturity at best and false assurance at worst)

II. The Evidence of Concern (v.12)

- A. Lack of progress
 - 1. Timeliness (“by now”)
 - 2. Teaching (speaks to the nature of learning - truth is meant to be taught)
- B. Basic needs
 - 1. Milk
 - 2. **Acts 7:38**
 - 3. **Romans 3:2**

III. The Reason for Concern: Immaturity (vv. 13-14)

- A. Milk (what they need)
 - 1. Being unskilled in the word of righteousness proves immaturity
 - 2. Developmental skills are lacking
- B. Meat (where they should be)
 - 1. Lack of discernment
 - 2. Untrained

- a) This proves that knowing much does NOT prove maturity
- b) The trained ones mentioned here are those who have established good habits (hexis)
- c) These good habits are acquired by practice.
- d) **1 Timothy 4:7**
- e) **Hebrews 12:11**
- 3. We tend toward unbelief
 - a) We need to be able to discern between good and evil
 - b) Discernment guards against the drift that we are so prone to (**Heb. 3:12**)
- 3. We must run to that throne of grace to find help in time of need
- 4. The truth is on the throne
 - a) Some believe they are wise unto salvation, believing in the reasonableness of their intellect
 - b) Some believe they are mature and advanced because they are absolutely certain that there are no absolute certainties
 - c) Some just don't know what to believe, and are honest about it
 - d) Christ calls you to turn from your own understanding to trusting Him

IV. Pursuing Maturity

- A. Heed the warning
 - 1. Learn to communicate your beliefs by your practice
 - 2. Confess pretense
 - 3. **Philippians 3:15-16**, *"15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained."*
- B. Hear the Word of the Lord
 - 1. Our help is found in the very Word we neglect
 - 2. Christ, as Priest, deals gently with the ignorant and wayward