

The Promise: Moving toward Maturity

Hebrews 6:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- I. The Point of Reference**
- A. **“Therefore let us leave...”**
- B. **“the elementary doctrine of Christ”** (3 pairs)
1. Repentance from dead works & faith toward God
 2. Washings & Laying on of hands (plural)
 3. Resurrection of the dead & Eternal judgment
 - a) The Jew would’ve understood in part
 - b) **Exodus 3:6**
- C. **Application:** Know where you are
1. Many of us presume to be further along than we are
 - a) We must insure that we understand these elementary doctrines
 - b) As the rest of this section shows, learning these elementary doctrines does not equate to true conversion
 - c) Without them, however, no one is truly converted
 2. The writer has made clear in **Hebrews 5:11-14** that the audience is infantile in their knowledge of Christ
 3. They may know much (for they should have been teachers by now) but they are

not living out their knowledge, making them babies

4. What we do with the knowledge we have of the gospel will give evidence to our actual spiritual condition (saved or unsaved)

- II. The Pursuit of Maturity**
- A. **“and go on...”**
1. The gospel is not static
 2. The gospel in the life of a true convert moves ahead
 - a) Grace-enabled effort
 - b) The gospel takes the knowledge of what Christ has finished on behalf of the believer and moves the believer to freely risk all for Christ
 - c) **2 Peter 1:1-5a,9**
- B. **“...to maturity”**
1. The word means “completeness, or perfection”
 2. **Hebrews 10:14** gives us an idea of what this “perfection, completeness” looks like
- C. **“not laying the foundation again”**
1. These basic doctrines already mentioned
 2. Rather, moving on from them pressing into Christ as the full realization of them. Maturity is the gospel more deeply applied.
- D. **“...if God permits.”**

1. The writer reiterates the sovereign work on God in the sanctifying process
2. Our will to pursue sanctification is bound to God's sovereign will to enable us to do so
3. Knowing that God, in His perfect, sovereign will, accomplishes what He desires, we can know that when He finishes our saving work, part of that "finishing" work is marks of a sanctified life.
4. Sanctification is GRACE-ENABLED effort for Christ-likeness. As our salvation is dependent upon grace, so is our sanctification. What Christ is perfecting in us are these elementary doctrines:
 - a) How do we know this? Because of where the writer is going in **Chapter 7**.
 - b) Look at the elementary doctrines...
 - (1) **Repentance & faith**
 - (2) **Washings & Laying on hands**
 - (3) **Resurrection from the dead & eternal judgment**
 - c) **Titus 2:11-14**

- E. **Application:** Move on
1. You're not moving on from the gospel. Rather, you are moving on to have the gospel further applied to more of your life.
 2. You are not moving on away from Christ. On the contrary, you are moving toward an increase of the living Christ in you

- and a decrease of the dead man strapped to your back.
- a) **First**, know the gospel. You cannot move ahead apart from understand the nature of His gracious, finished work.
 - b) **Second**, rely on God (actively in prayer, work, action) to change you, for He will finish what He began.
 - c) **Third**, take the warning with sober-mindedness.
 - d) **Fourth**, increase in knowledge and practice.

- Hebrews 12:1-2**
- a) His will saves you & completes you.
 - b) Pursue the person of Christ, not an ideology or concept.
 - c) Lay aside the sin of faithlessness and unbelief that He will do this.
 - d) Your faith is evidenced in your active pursuit of maturity, culminating in increased joy in Christ alone.
 - e) Or as Paul puts it... **Philippians 3:12-16**