

"Our Great High Priest"

Part 10

Hebrews 4:14-8:5

Introduction: Tonight as we return to our study of the book of Hebrews we are stepping into chapter 6 which is a continuation of the warning which started in Hebrews 5:12. Now before we step into Hebrews 6 we need to quickly review what we looked at in Hebrews 5:12-14. In those verses the writer pointed to the consequences of a major problem in the lives of the Hebrew Christians. The writer desired to take them into a deeper study of the man Melchisedec to show that he was a type of Jesus Christ but they were unable to grasp on because they had become dull of hearing.

Notice Hebrews 5:10-11

Now I need to remind you that the reason they had become dull of hearing was because of their divided allegiance. They were divided between Judaism and Christianity. They were double minded believers and it was affecting all areas of their lives. Let me show you something from James that will shine light on this situation.

James 1:2-8

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

⁵ *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

⁶ *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

⁷ *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

⁸ **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.**

Here in this text James is writing about trials in 1:1-3 and then in verse 4 he writes concerning wisdom as the trials are faced in the life of the believer. Then James goes on to explain how when we ask God for wisdom we need to ask in faith. In other words we must trust Him and believe He will give us the wisdom we need. But if we are double minded or if we are not fully committed to following him then we will receive nothing and

the double mindedness will affect every area of our lives. You see God desires that we give to Him our full undivided worship.

Now the Hebrew believers who would receive the book of Hebrews were also faced with the trials of persecution and they were divided between Judaism and Christianity so they were double minded people and that double mindedness was really affecting their lives. In Hebrews 5:11 we see they had become dull of hearing. But that was not all.

Notice Hebrews 5:12

As long as they had been saved they should have been teachers but their divided allegiance had stunted their spiritual growth. The very basic principles which they should have been teaching to others they needed to be reminded of again. So being double minded had caused their spiritual growth to be hindered.

Notice Hebrews 5:13

Here we see that these believers were unfit for battle. They were unskilled in the Word of God. That means they did not know how to apply the Word nor did they know how to use it as they defended themselves against the spiritual attacks. The Bible is the Sword of the Spirit and it is what we are to use when we come under the attacks of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Ephesians 6:14-17

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

The Hebrew believers were unable to handle the Sword and therefore they were unfit for battle. This was all the result of divided allegiance.

Notice Hebrews 5:14

Here we see another problem within their lives. Because they could not handle the strong meat of the Word they did not exercise their senses and therefore they had trouble discerning between right and wrong.

So these were the results of divided allegiance. This brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Remedy and Serious Warning

The writer is now going to move on and explain to them the steps they need to take. But before we enter into this section there are some things we need to consider. First of all this is one of the most controversial passages in the entire Bible. There are many different interpretations of this passage. But we know there can only be one correct interpretation.

Notice Hebrews 6:1-8

These are the verses that have caused many people to scratch their heads and some to live in fear. I have heard several people refer to this text as the proof that a believer can lose their salvation. Now if that were true then we are all doomed because the passage tells us that it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew them again. This is not what the passage is talking about. Some have taken this passage and say that it refers to Hebrews who were not saved but had heard the Truth and were mixed in with the true believers but were on the verge of forsaking the Truth of the Gospel.

Now I believe in order to understand the passage we need to know exactly who the writer was speaking to here. The question is can we know exactly who the writer has in mind? The answer is, "YES". Let me show you.

Notice Hebrews 6:9-11

Here is a contrast. The writer tells of what happens to those who fall away in verses 4-6 then in these verses he encourages them and says that he is persuaded of better things of them. In other words he is telling them what happens to the believer who falls away and then he says, "But we do not believe that will happen to you." So the contrast is between what COULD happen and what the writer believes WILL happen. So it is a warning to Hebrew BELIEVERS who were considering walking away from Christ and going back to the Old Covenant. It has been the same with the previous 2 warning also. They were also written to the Hebrew believers.

Now let me show you one more point before we get into the text that will help you in this passage.

Hebrews 6:7-8

⁷ *For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*

⁸ *But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.*

This is an earthly illustration given to help those he is writing to understand what he is saying in **Hebrews 6:4-6**. Now just a quick note here: this illustration is all about bearing fruit. That is all we will say about these verses at this time. But they will certainly help us as we look closer at this text.

1. **They were to leave the principles of the doctrines of Christ.**

Notice Hebrews 6:1a

The principles of the doctrines of Christ would be the basic teaching which we were grounded in when we were first saved. Some examples would be how we are all sinners and on our own we are unable to save ourselves. It would include how God sent His Son to be the Substitute who died to pay the penalty for our sins and how we must receive Him by faith. These are the basic doctrines of Christianity.

But a question that comes to my mind in this verse would be, "What does the writer mean when he says that we are to LEAVE these principles?"

Let me show you the words of George Peck on this thought.

"We must leave these first principles as the pupil leaves the alphabet when he is brought to the process of combining letters into syllables, and syllables into words, and of words constructing sentences, and of sentences making a discourse. We must leave them as the architect leaves the foundation, and proceeds to erect upon it his superstructure. We must leave them as the mathematician leaves his axioms, and proceeds to the construction of his demonstration. What benefit would result from the labour and expense of laying the best foundation if it remain unappropriated — if no building be reared upon it? How long might the mathematician occupy himself in ascertaining the axioms of the science without coming at a single valuable result? And what advantage will accrue to us, or the world, from our acquiring the mere elements of Christianity without reducing them to practice,

pushing them out to their ulterior results, and connecting them with the higher principles of a spiritual life?"

Notice Hebrews 6:1

Here we see that the Holy Spirit desires for us who are believers to build upon the foundation of the basic principles of Christ and move on to full maturity. Now last week I told you that one of the problems with these believers was they had neglected that which God ordained to be the training ground for His children.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

²⁴ *And let us consider [observe] one another to provoke[incite one another] unto love and to good works:*

²⁵ ***Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together***, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This PERFECTION that the writer is calling for is ONLY attained under God's blueprint! Let me show you this.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Let me show you the meaning of the word "perfection" in Hebrews 6:1.

"The state of the more intelligent, moral and spiritual perfection"

This is the will of God for our lives. That we would build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and that year after year we would grow more mature in our spiritual walk. Notice the words from Proverbs 4.

Proverbs 4:18

*But the path of the just is as the shining light, **that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.***

Now not only do we reach spiritual maturity by getting deeper into the Word. There are also other means which are involved that are combined with the learning of the Word. Notice what Paul says in 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

*¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.*

Here in these verses we can see that **SEPERATION** is also part of the maturing process. Let me show you something else which God uses in the maturing process of the believer.

1 Peter 5:10

*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect**, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

Here we see that **SUFFERING** is also a means which God uses to bring his children to maturity.

Let me show you one more means God uses to bring His children to spiritual maturity.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

*⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be **perfect** and entire, wanting nothing.*

Here we see that perfection is attained by the **TRIALS** of life.

Conclusion:

Now let me pull this together for some ending thoughts.

We know it is God's desire for us to build upon the foundation of the basic principles of Christ and press on toward spiritual maturity because the writer of Hebrews was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these words. So these words are directly from God.

With that in mind I am reminded that suffering and trials are used by God to accomplish this. Therefore I must see them as workshops which God has allowed to come into my life. But at the same time I have several responsibilities. I have to live a life of separation. In other words I need to separate from all that can poison my mind and take me in a direction I should not go. Then on top of all of this I must not neglect God's blueprint of the church. It is under the teaching of the Word that I will learn to skillfully handle the Sword of the Spirit and exercise my spiritual senses which will enable me to discern between right and wrong.

These points put into practice will develop strong believers which is what is needed today.