

# Babies or Teachers

## Hebrews 5:10-14

Isaiah 6:8-13

Hebrews 6:1-12

### Do We Believe the Bible Is the Word of God?

- If we are not DOING the **written** Word of God then we do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God. (James 1:22)
- If we are not DOING the **written** Word of God we have NO authority for what is RIGHT and WRONG. (Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 8:20)
- If we are not DOING the **written** Word of God we are saying to God, "I will live my life as I please and not as you command." (Ephesians 2:1-3; Rom 10:3)
- If we are not DOING the **written** Word of God we set ourselves up as God - just as Satan did! (Isaiah 14:13-14)
- Seriously consider what God says in His New Testament: Matt 7:21-29; 12:50; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:1-3; **1 Cor 16:22**.
- **DANGER: Isaiah 6:8-13** - the Sun will melt a candle and harden clay at the same time.

### We Are Living in Dangerous Times (Isaiah 58:1; 56:10; Rev 1:10-11)

- **CHEAP GRACE** - the belief God's grace comes without continual repentance of sins and living not according to the **written** Word of God. CHEAP GRACE is NOT GRACE. (See Mark 1:14-15; Luke 13:1-5)
- **SUPERFICIAL CHRISTIANITY** - the belief that one can claim to be going to heaven while doing nothing according to the **written** Word of God. It has a very small view of God, sin, and grace. (Luke 14:33; James 2:14-26)
- **COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS** - being convinced by a *gospel* that seems like the truth but is, in fact, a false gospel. These disobey the command and exhortation of God to examine themselves to see if they are truly "in **the** faith". (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10) - A person being deceived usually does not find out that he/she has been deceived until it is too late - see Matthew 7:22-23. See Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24
- **RELATIVISM** - the belief that truth is relative and not absolute. Truth does not matter and so one can live their lives believing what they want to believe and not necessarily what is true. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:30, 43, 142, 151, **160**) There is no contending for the truth. (Jude 3; Jeremiah 9:3) Truth has **perished**. (Jeremiah 7:28)



- **RATIONALIZATION** - knowing what the word of God say but justifying one's disobedience by using culture, tradition, time, circumstances, situations, etc. (See Matthew 15:1-9; Colossians 2:8; Romans 10:3)
- **COMPROMISE** - knowing what the truth is but living at a lower standard than is acceptable to God though believing that one is still obedient to God. Lowering one's standard to be accepted by others with lower standards. (1 Samuel 15:1-25)



### High Priest, After the Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:10)

- The author has been making an argument that Christ is our High Priest.
- The High Priest, of the order of Aaron, is no longer needed since we now have an **eternal** High Priest.
- The order of Aaron does not completely "fill up" the office that Christ NOW holds so the author is introducing "another" High Priest – Melchizedek – to help us to fully understand OUR High Priest.

### A "Difficult" Section (Hebrews 5:11-6:12)

- DIFFICULTY is RELATIVE. What is DIFFICULT for a BABY is NOT DIFFICULT for a MATURE ADULT. (See 2 Peter 3:14-18)

### Much to Say (Hebrews 5:11)

- "There were many things pertaining to this order of priesthood which were of DEEP importance, of GREAT value, and MOST NECESSARY to know; things concerning the glory of Christ, things which concerned the JOY and CONSOLATION of His people."
- "hard to explain" – the writer did not say, "hard to understand" – these GREAT things were "hard to explain" because the **HEBREWS** were . . .
- **"DULL of HEARING"** – They had **BECOME** dull of hearing.
  - The word translated "dull" comes from the Greek word  $\nu\alpha\theta\rho\rho\acute{\sigma}$  "nothros" {no-thros} made up of two words meaning "no" + "push".
- The word "dull" is translated "slothful", "sluggish" or "lazy" in 6:12
- Dullness of hearing is something that happens **GRADUALLY**.
- They had become like many today who flatter themselves that they know all about what is necessary.
- READ: Proverbs 12:27; 19:24; 24:30-34; **26:13-16**.
- "slothful"; "sluggish" or "lazy" is the **OPPOSITE** for "giving all **DILIGENCE**" (2 Peter 1:5, 10; Hebrews 6:11-12)
  - Paul speaks about "reaching or straining forward" for truth that lies before us. (Philippians 3:13-14)

- **BIBLICAL TRUTH:** If we do not move forward, we WILL slip backwards. (Hebrews 2:1-3; Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6)
- “increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:17-18; 2 Peter 1:5-8) takes EFFORT.
  - When we are BORN-AGAIN our NEW NATURES long and hunger after such knowledge.
  - TRUTH is BOUGHT. (Prov 23:23)
  - We are to SEEK truth. (Prov 2:2-5; 4:5-7)
  - We are to consider EVERYTHING else as RUBBISH. (Philippians 3:8)
  - Psalm 1 tells of those who MEDITATE (think hard about) DAY and NIGHT on the word of God.
  - The lazy soul desires and has nothing; but the diligent soul shall be rich. (Proverbs 13:4)

### Babies vs Teachers (Disciple Makers) (Hebrews 5:12)

- The writer is REBUKING his readers in that they ought to be TEACHERS.
- Teaching is NOT limited to Sunday preaching or Bible studies.
  - The home is the PRIMARY place of learning for children. Parents are to be skilled teachers of their children. (Deut 6:7; **Psalm 78:4-8**)
  - (Titus 2:3-5) Older women are to teach the younger women.
- Do you listen to the preaching and teaching of God’s Word only for your own benefit?
- **OR** are you listening and studying with the object to equip/disciple others?
- These readers should have been TEACHERS but NOW were only BABIES and **needed** to be RE-TAUGHT their “ABCs”!!!!

### Babies ARE UNSKILLED (Hebrews 5:13-14)

- A “baby” is WEAK, IGNORANT, and HELPLESS.
- A “baby” is fascinated with THINGS and NOT CONCEPTS and TRUTH.
- A “baby” will put ANYTHING into its mouth without any concerns for consequences.
- A “baby will touch ANYTHING – crawl ANYWHERE without any concern of dangers.
- A “baby” is easily distracted.
- A “baby” has no discernment between what is evil and what is good.



### “Discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14; 1 Thess 5:21-22; Job 1:1)

- “full age” – maturity – the ability to apply wisdom. The ability to know what is good and what is evil and to **do** what is good.

- “full age” comes from **USING** what we learn. It comes from **vigorously exercising** our senses (minds) in discerning (telling the difference between) good and evil.
- **Why is there so little discernment today?**
  - ① **Weak Doctrine** – what the **BIBLE** says. (Eph 4:14; 1 Tim 4:13, 16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4)
  - ② **Relativistic Thinking**. Nothing is BLACK and WHITE. Everything is GRAY. There is no belief in the ABSOLUTE.
    - TRUTH is RELATIVE. “What is truth to you may not be truth to me!!!”
    - The written Word of God is TRUTH. (John 17:17; Psa 119:160)
    - There is no real concern for **the** truth. (Jer 7:28; 9:3; Isaiah 59:14-15)
  - ③ **Worldly Methodology/Thinking/Living**. Doing church the way the world does business! Instead of being SEPARATE (2 Cor 6:14-17) from the world we have become friends with the world. (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; John 15:19) Our minds are set on things here on earth rather than on things above. (Colossians 3:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4) The things of the world are more important than the things of God.
  - ④ **Inaccurate interpretations**. “I think this verse means . . .” in contrast to 2 Timothy 2:15.
  - ⑤ **No serious self-examination** though we are commanded to do it continually. (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)
  - ⑥ **Spiritual immaturity**. There is not genuine or driving desire to grow in knowledge and to be like Christ. (Philippians 3:13-14)
  - ⑦ **Lack of Fear of God** - not taking God as serious as He take Himself. (Deut 10:12-14; Eccl 12:13-14; 1 Peter 2:17; **2 Cor 7:1**)
  - ⑧ **Lack of Living Our Lives according to the written Word** - we do not “exercise” our senses by **doing** what we have heard and learned. (James 1:22; Luke 4:4; Philip 4:9; Matt 7:21-23; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)

### How to Become a Discerning Person

- ① Fear God. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Deut 10:12-13; Psalm 34:9; 128:1)
- ② Desire: born from humility. (Matthew 5:6; **Proverbs 2:1-9**)
- ③ Pray. (1 Kings 3:9; James 1:5)
- ④ Learn from the gifted. (1 Corinthians 12:8; Eph 4:11-12)
- ⑤ Follow the pattern of the mature. (1 Corinthians 11:1; Hebrews 13:7)
- ⑥ Filled with and living by the Holy Spirit.. (Eph 5:18; Galatians 5:16, 18,24-25) Make sure you are listening to the Holy Spirit and not your own.
- ⑦ **DILIGENTLY** study and meditate on the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:14-15; Psalm 1:1-3)
- ⑧ **LIVE** what you have heard and learn. (James 1:22; Hebrews 5:14)