

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/16-17/2023 *Hebrews 5*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

In Chapter 1, we were given God's Supreme Revelation concerning Jesus Christ, including His being exalted above Angels. Chapter 2 - 1st Warning Against neglecting salvation – lest we drift away! Chapter 3 – Jesus greater than Moses; 2nd warning against hardening our hearts and unbelief, failing to enter into His rest! Chapter 4 – The Promise Of Rest; The Word Discovers Our Condition; Jesus The Great Compassionate High Priest!

Chapter 5 – Qualifications for High Priesthood – 1-4; A Priest Forever - 3rd warning – dull of hearing! – vs. 5-11; Spiritual Immaturity – vs. 12-14.

Review from end of Chapter 4: - JESUS THE GREAT COMPASSIONATE HIGH PRIEST! - (Heb 4:14-16) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

CHAPTER 5 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR HIGH PRIESTHOOD - (Heb 5:1-4) For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. [2] He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. [3] Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. [4] And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

Heb 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

- **This was the ministry of the high priest.** He had to be taken from among men. He was ordained for men to be a mediator between man and God. Sinful man cannot approach a Holy God. That's just the way it is.
- **Even the high priest, when, once a year, on that Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, would come** into the holy of holies, he would not enter it until he had first offered many sacrifices, including sacrifices for his own sin, which was the primary job of the **high priest** to officiate, either directly or indirectly through lower-ranking priests, sacrifices unto the Lord. After much cleansing, many sacrifices, he would then come with the sacrifice of the goat that had been slain for the atonement of the nation, to offer that before the mercy seat, within the holy of holies. Because man could not directly approach God, he was ordained for man to approach God, for them. He was the go-between, the mediator, between sinful man and a righteous God. He would *offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins*. The writer to the Hebrews, neatly summarizes the work of the **high priest**, in saying *that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins*
- **No angel with supernatural power could serve as high priest.** Only men with the weaknesses of humanity could serve as high priest. The position of high priest in the Levitical system was by appointment only. No man could legitimately appoint himself high priest. The use of the present tense in these verses seems to indicate that the Levitical system still was being practiced at the time of this epistle.
- **Gifts and sacrifices for sins.** This phrase reminds us that not every sacrifice was a blood atonement for sins. Many of the ritual sacrifices were intended to be simple gifts to God, expressing man's thanks and desire for fellowship.
- **Sacrifices under the Law were very moving! One of the things that brought great comfort** and assurance was the fact that you could bring a sacrifice to the priests for your sin offering. You could lay your hand on the head of the animal, confessing on it your sin. The priest in turn would slay it and take the blood, putting it in a basin and put in on the mercy seat. The sacrifice would be burned in the fire. It was a very moving experience! A very dramatic kind of an experience because you realize, that animal is suffering and dying, as a substitute for my sin! But as the result of it taking my sin and dying in my place, I can now fellowship with God.

Heb 5:2 He can have compassion (deal or bear gently, have empathy) on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

- **Have compassion, be called of God. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant.** Now it **was necessary** and these are the requirements of the high priest. He had to be compassionate, who *can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness*. All of us are enveloped with infirmity, weaknesses. None of us are perfect. Many times, when we get judgmental, I believe that the Lord reveals something of our own character and nature that is really out of kilter, so that we will not be so judgmental, so that we can have compassion, rather than having a judgmental attitude toward people who have sinned.

- **We are so quick to rise in righteous indignation, over someone else's sin.** Our sins look so horrible when someone else is committing them. We can get very indignant, you know. How frequently is that occurring with me?
- **It's like David, after this horrible sin with Bathsheeba and the subsequent setting her husband up** for being killed. The prophet Nathan came to David, saying there is a man in your kingdom. He is very wealthy. I mean he has everything that you could ever want. Next door, there lived this poor man. All he had was one little ewe lamb. It was the only thing he had. It would eat at his table. It would sleep in the room at night. The rich man had company come over. He ordered his servants to go next door, forcefully taking that one little lamb, killing it and roasting it for his company. David was indignant! He said to Nathan the prophet. That man shall surely be put to death! Nathan said, David, you're the man! You see, he just changed the circumstances a little bit. And David saw his sin and condemned himself.
- **Paul tells us, (Gal 6:1) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**
- **So the high priest, like Aaron, of the Levitical line was not perfect.** He was just a man like all of the rest of us, thus capable of having understanding and compassion upon those who had sinned in ignorance or those who were out of the way, out of God's path. So he was able to help them, because he too, was enveloped with weaknesses.

Heb 5:3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

- **High priests in the Levitical line, being sinners, not only had to offer** sin offerings for the people, but he also had to offer sin offerings for himself! He was guilty. He was a sinner! He knew what it was to be a sinner! God also made specific commands to help insure the **high priest** would minister with awareness that he was **also subject to weakness**. On the Day of Atonement, the **high priest** had to sacrifice for himself first, reminding himself and the nation that he had sin to atone for, just like the rest of the people of Israel.
- **Jesus our Great High Priest was not a sinner** like those of the Levitical line! **(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- **Consider the trouble God has taken to win our poor hearts to trust and confidence.** Let us accept the revelation, and have our hearts so filled with the sympathy and gentleness of Jesus, that in every perplexity, our first thought shall always be the certainty and the blessedness of His compassion and help. How many souls there are who mourn over their sins, and do not think that they are making their sins more and stronger by not going with all their ignorance and weakness boldly to Jesus? How often do I look backward, holding on to the guilt and disappointment of my past failures, rather than being quick to take them to our Great High Priest, coming boldly to Him for help?
- **We need to understand the whole priesthood of Jesus** has but this one object! That is to lead you and I boldly and joyfully to draw near to God and live in fellowship with Him. With this view in mind, I want to trust Jesus as much and as definitely with my ignorance and weakness as with my sins. May we not let our weakness and ignorance discourage and keep us back, but be the motive and the plea, which leads us to come boldly to Him for help, who can have compassion, deal gently, emphasizing on those who are ignorant and going astray, since He Himself is also subject to weakness!
- **Do learn the lesson! The whole priesthood of Jesus has but this one object, to lead you boldly and joyfully to draw near to God, and live in fellowship with Him.** With this view trust Jesus as definitely with your ignorance and weakness as with your sins!

Heb 5:4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

- **Called by God. No self-appointment! It's not something that you self-appoint.** You don't set yourself up as the high priest. It takes a calling and being ordained by God, for the office. You don't just take that honor on yourself. You have to be selected and called of God. It was an *honor no man takes to himself*.

- **It is God against whom we have sinned, in separation from whom we fall** into the power of death. It is God we need. It is to Him and to His love, the way must be opened. It is God alone, who can say what that way is, who is able to have it opened up? This now is what gives the gospel, and our faith in Christ, its security and sufficiency, that it is all of God! Christ has been called of God to be High Priest. The very God who created us, against whom we sinned, gives His Son as our Redeemer!

A PRIEST FOREVER - 3RD WARNING – DULL OF HEARING! – (Heb 5:5-11) So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON, _" [6] As He also says in another place: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"; [7] who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, [8] though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. [9] And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, [10] called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK," [11] of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Heb 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He (God the Father) who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU."

- **The writer now turns from the requirements and the ministry of the high priest in Judaism,** to Jesus Christ. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest. It wasn't something that He pushed Himself or made Himself into. Just as much as Jesus was declared to be the **Son**, (Psa 2:7) "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, **Today I have begotten You**, He was also declared to be **a priest forever**, (Psa 110:4) The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are **a priest** According to the order of Melchizedek." It would be difficult for early Jewish Christians to understand and grasp the priesthood of Jesus. He was not from the lineage of Aaron, not practicing or having any special ministry in the temple. He came against, rather than joining the religious leadership and structure, which at that time had become a corrupt institution.
- **But it was He who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON,** But it was an honor that was bestowed unto Him by the Father. Here it is not merely that Christ was called of God to be High Priest, but notice the basis upon which He was chosen. It was as Son of God that He was appointed High Priest, showing us the true nature and character of the priesthood rooted in the Sonship. The work of the priesthood is to reveal and communicate the blessed life of Sonship.
- **As Son, Christ alone was heir of all that God had!** All the life of the Father was in Him! God could have no union or fellowship with any creature but through His beloved Son, therefore no one could be our High Priest but the Son of God! It was the Son alone who could impart an entrance, new into the very life of God, with the restoration of the divine nature we had lost in paradise! He had the life of God to give! He was able to give it! He could only give it by taking us into living fellowship with Himself!
- **The priesthood of Christ is the God devised channel through which the ever blessed Son** could make us partakers of and with Himself. All the life and glory He had taken from and in the Father, is now our confidence and safety because it was the Father who appointed the Son, High Priest. It is the love of God, against whom we had sinned, that gave the Son. It is the will and power of this God that ordained and worked out the great salvation! It is in God Himself our salvation has its origin, its life, its power! It is God drawing near to communicate Himself to us in His Son!
- **TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN** (*gennaō* – became the parent of) **YOU, referring to Jesus' resurrection from the dead,** at which time Jesus fully assumed His role as our great High Priest, having been perfected (Heb 5:9). The resurrection of Jesus powerfully demonstrated that He was not a priest like Aaron, who had to atone for his own sin first. The resurrection vindicated Jesus as the Father's *Holy One*, (Act 2:24,27) whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. [27] **FOR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HADES, NOR WILL YOU ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.** Jesus, bore the wrath sinners deserve, without becoming a sinner Himself.

Heb 5:6 As He also says in another place: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK";

- ***In another place.*** This verse quotes (*Psa 110:4*, also quoted in *Heb 5:10; 6:20; 7:17,21*) Christ met all requirements for the priesthood, except that of descent from Aaron. He was of another priestly order, greater even than that of Aaron and Levi!
- ***To the Son of God, the Lord said to Him, YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.*** He is appointed by God, ordained by God. He is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. As we continue through Hebrews, the author is going to give us many more contrasts between the earthly high priest and Jesus as our Great High Priest. In the seventh chapter, he is going to elaborate more on this.
- ***The Jewish high priest was after the order of Aaron,*** a member of the tribe of Levi. The tribe of Levi was appointed as the priestly tribe for the nation. Aaron and his descendants inherited the task of high priest. But Jesus is of a different order, not the Aaronic order of priesthood, but after the order of Melchizedek.
- ***What an important contrast! A priest forever*** is an important contrast! Jesus' priesthood is Melchizedek's, which is unending! No High Priest descended from Aaron ever had a ***forever*** priesthood. The Levitical high priest began at the age of thirty, ending twenty years later, at the age of fifty.
- ***Could God have bestowed a more wondrous grace upon us than this, to give His own Son*** as our High Priest forever? Could He have given us a surer ground of faith and hope than this, that the Son is priest? Shall we not trust Him? Giving Him the honor God has given Him?
- ***What we need to do is to occupy and exercise our faith in fully receiving this blessed truth!*** Jesus is the eternal Son, appointed by the Father as our priest, to introduce us into His presence, and to keep us there. He, Himself was subject to weaknesses and was tried with temptations, that no ignorance or weakness on our part can worry Him, or prevent Him doing His blessed work, if we will only trust Him! Oh, let us worship and honor Him! Let us trust Him! Let our faith claim all He is able and willing to do, that is our God appointed High Priest!
- ***Faith opens a heart! Through faith this divine Being fills, pervades, the whole heart and dwells*** in it. He cannot bring you nearer to God except as He brings your heart nearer. He cannot bring your heart nearer except as He dwells in it. He cannot dwell in it except as you believe! Oh, consider Jesus, until your whole heart is faith in Him and what He is in you! (*Joh 14:23*) *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

Heb 5:7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

(Luk 22:44) And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Mat 26:36-39) Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." [37] And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. [38] Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." [39] He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

(Isa 50:5-7) The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. [6] I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. [7] "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

- ***Who in the days of His (Jesus') flesh! He leads us in Spirit down into Gethsemane,*** speaking of the wondrous mystery of the agony there, at the last stage in the preparation and the perfecting, the completing, of our High Priest for the work He came to do! Let us enter this holy place with hearts bowed under a consciousness of our ignorance, but hungering and thirsting to know something more of the great mystery of godliness, the Son of God becoming flesh for us!

- **We see the experience that Jesus had in the garden of Gethsemane, when as He was praying.** His sweat became as it were, great drops of blood, falling to the ground. Being in agony, He was praying. Tears, strong crying, unto Him who was able to save Him from death. We remember His prayer, repeated three times! Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless, not My will but Your will be done!
- **Not as I will, but as You will! When He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death.** In Gethsemane, Jesus agonized and wept, but committed Himself to do the Father's will in accepting the cup of suffering which would bring His death.
- **Jesus was indeed praying in the garden, that the cup might pass from Him.** Jesus knows what it is like to struggle with the difficulty of obedience, yet He obeyed perfectly! We can see how our glorious, enthroned Jesus knows what I am going through on earth! He knows! Obedience did not always come easy for Jesus. What an example for us! How well do I understand His example of obedience?
- **And was heard because of His godly fear, showing us there was no other way!** If Jesus asked that the cup be taken away from Him, and the cup was not taken away, how can it be said that He *was heard*? Because **His prayer was not to escape His Father's will, but to accept it!** That prayer was definitely heard! If there would have been another way, Jesus' three prayers of *O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*, would have been answered with another way! **We see that there was no other way than the cross, by which we have been saved!** The Father heard His prayer, in as much as He revered the Father. The Father heard His prayer, ending with (*Luk 22:42*) saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." That was the whole prayer.
- **And was heard for His godly fear. How it becomes me then to pray humbly,** reverently, in His Holy Spirit, and be heard also for His godly fear! This was the very spirit of His prayer and obedience.

Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

- **In, not My will but Your will be done, He submitted Himself to the will of the Father,** which was the cross. In expressing, "*Let this cup pass,*" He is expressing His own desire at this moment, but yet the overriding issue was, "*Not My will but Your will be done!*"
- **The Father heard His prayer. He heard His cries.** He heard His pleadings. But He also heard the submission to obedience.
- **That is why Paul said, (Php 2:6-8) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** He was obedient unto death!
- **Jesus learned obedience through the things that He suffered there on the cross,** as He suffered for our sins. He was learning the importance of obedience to the will of the Father. Jesus did not learn how to obey; He learned what is involved in obedience. Even so we need to realize the importance of often learning obedience through suffering. Suffering was used to teach Jesus. **If suffering was fit to teach the Son of God, we must never despise it as a tool of instruction in our lives!** The Bible never teaches that strong faith will keep a believer from all suffering. Believers are appointed to affliction. It is through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God, (*Act 14:22b*) *We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.* Our present suffering is the prelude to glorification (*Rom 8:17*) *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*
- **God uses suffering as a tool to teach us important lessons for life!** There are things that we learn through suffering that we cannot learn any other way. There is character that is developed through suffering that cannot be developed any other way. Peter said, (*1Pe 4:19*) *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.* So, we learn commitment! We learn trust! We learn faith! We learn patience! We learn hope through suffering! I have only as much of Jesus in me as I have of the spirit of obedience.
- **The High Priest was perfected through obedience!** When the perfect heavenly life of the Lord Jesus comes down from heaven into our hearts, it can assume no form but that which it had in Him.

That is obedience. **God must be obeyed!** In that one word you have the key to the life and death of Jesus, His sitting at God's right hand, His priesthood, His dwelling in our hearts, as well as to the whole of the gospel message, God must be obeyed! **Christ, the obedient one, who inaugurated for us the new way of obedience unto death as the way to God!**

- **Is this the Christ you love and trust? Is this your delight in Him** that He now has delivered you from your disobedience, and makes you strong to live only to obey God and Him? Is Christ precious to you because the salvation He gives is a restoration to obedience?

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected (completed), **He became the author** (*aitios* – the cause, source) **of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

- **And having been perfected.** *telioo* - That is complete. To bring to an end, being to its goal, its accomplishment.
- **He became the author of eternal salvation.** Through the suffering, back in chapter two, verse ten, it speaks about His being made perfect through suffering. So coming back to that thought from (**Heb 2:10**) *For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.* The Bible tells us that He is the author and the finisher of our faith. (**Heb 12:2**) *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Salvation is of the Lord! He is the author of salvation. He is the one who has provided salvation. It's His plan of redemption.* .
- **Eternal salvation.** We see only three adjectives used in the New Testament, describing our salvation. It is "so great a salvation" (**Heb 2:3**), "eternal salvation" in this verse, and "common salvation" (**Jud 1:3**).
- **To all who obey him! The obedience, those who are obedient, receive eternal salvation.** We see this salvation is extended to **all who obey Him**, which assumes that believers will obey!

Heb 5:10 called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK,"

- **Jesus is called by God as High Priest** (not personal ambition) *according to the order of Melchizedek.* Again, a repetition, it takes us back to **Psalm 110**, where He has sworn, and by the decree, shall not turn back. **YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.**
- **The writer will elaborate more on this in chapter seven.** We'll wait until we get to chapter seven and then we will go back into Genesis chapter fourteen. We'll look more fully at this man, Melchizedek, concerning the fact that a priest after the order of Melchizedek, is higher than a priest after the order of Aaron (Levi).

Heb 5:11 of whom we have much to say (in chapter 7), **and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.**

- **Since you have become dull of hearing, explaining** why the writer doesn't go more into the topic of Melchizedek now. He wants to address some critical basics before going on to more difficult topics, but their spiritual condition makes it **hard to explain.**
- **Being dull** (*nothros* - sluggish, thick, slow to hear) **of hearing** is not a problem with what is being said, but is what is being heard! A problem with the ears, not a problem with the heart! You just aren't really interested in what God has to say to you. Not wanting to hear the Word of God, which points to a genuine spiritual problem!
- **These Christians who felt like giving up with Jesus were also dull of hearing,** which usually comes first, leading to the desire to give up. Watch out when, or if, the Word of God starts seeming dull to you! How exciting or how dull am I in truly desiring the Word of God?
- **Have become dull of hearing.** **Become** is an important word, which indicates that they didn't start out **dull of hearing**, but became that way. It is hard to speak to you about these things. The time has come that you really ought to be teaching, but you still have need to be taught. You still have need of milk and you're not able to take strong meat.

- **People are *dull of hearing*, many times, of the Word of God.** They don't want to get in and just really study the Word of God. How I thank God for you people here. Your hunger for the Word of God and your love for the Word of God. And the fact that we can go through the Bible, finding it an exciting experience to study the Word and by it, growing together in our knowledge and understanding of the Lord and the things of the Lord.

SPIRITUAL MATURITY - (Heb 5:12-14) *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. [13] For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [14] But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*

Heb 5:12 *For though by this time you ought (a strong word – “have a duty”) to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

- ***By this time:*** Having been followers of Jesus for some time, they should have been much more mature than they were.
- ***You ought to be teachers:*** It wasn't that these were unique people who would hold a unique role of teaching. Instead, they ***ought to be teachers*** in the sense that all Christians should be teachers. There is an important sense in which every Christian must be a teacher, because we can all help disciple others. We really only master something after we have effectively taught it to someone else. Teaching is the final step of learning. ***(Col 3:16)*** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (1Pe 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (2Co 3:5-6) Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, [6] **who also made us sufficient as ministers (diakonos – a Christian teacher) of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.** How much am I really relying on His sufficiency? How fruitful am I as a minister, whom He has made sufficient?*
- ***You need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God:*** This isn't to their credit. It isn't that *the first principles* are “beneath” the mature Christian. Rather, it is that one should be able to teach one's self, being reminded of these *first principles of the oracles of God*.
- ***And you have come to need milk and not solid food!*** ***Milk*** corresponds to *the first principles of the oracles of God*. ***Solid food*** is the material of more meat, such as understanding the connection between Jesus and Melchizedek! Milk is not bad. It is wonderful for newborn babies! But mature Christians should have added and continue adding, ***solid food*** to their diet. Peter reminds us, ***(1Pe 2:2-3)*** *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, [3] if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

Heb 5:13 *For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe (apeiros - an immature Christian, infant).*

- ***They hadn't really developed into mature Christians.*** There was this admixture of law and faith, keeping them in a state of spiritual infancy, because they were still looking to their own works to be accepted by God and looking to their own works for a righteous standing before God. Paul is saying I have a lot of things that I'd like to talk to you about these things.
- ***Unskilled in the word of righteousness, they must be fed with milk;*** be entertained with the plainest truths; delivered in the plainest manner. Christ despises not His babes. He has provided suitable food for them. It is good to be babes in Christ, but not always to continue in that childish state. We should endeavor to pass the infant state, growing up to a manly maturity.
- ***For He is a babe: They made fun of Isaiah in his day and of his teaching methods. (Isa 28:10)*** *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little." It was in a sneering way that they said this of Isaiah. (Mat 11:25) At that time Jesus*

answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

- **It is sad that many people go to church all of their lives**, but never develop beyond infancy state in their Spiritual growth. They remain infants. Paul calls them babes in Christ. They never grow up. They never mature. The reason is the lack of the kind of food by which you've grown. The Bible is Spiritual food, that we so need!
- **The writer is sort of rebuking them for the fact that they haven't really matured** in the Spiritual walk. In the last verse, he said, but strong meat belongs to those that are mature, those that have grown up.
- **The purpose of the church is to bring you into Spiritual maturity.** In *(Eph 4:13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect (complete) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!* How well am I progressing in this area?
- **It is to bring you into full maturity in your walk with the Lord!** It isn't to entertain you. It isn't to provide an exciting and entertaining program and all. It's really to bring you into maturity, Spiritual maturity. There are churches that seek to attract people and entertain people, but the people remain in that infant state. They still are on the bottle. They never get to the meat and thus they never grow beyond the infancy state. They never mature. This was the case with the Hebrews to which he is writing.

Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- **Solid food, strong meat, belongs to those who are fully** matured or perfect, complete. The same Greek root is translated "*perfection*" in the next verse, *(Heb 6:1) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.* Elsewhere is translated "*perfect.*"
- **Every true Christian, having received a principle of spiritual life from God, stands in need** of nourishment to preserve that life. The word of God is food and nourishment to the life of grace! *(1Pe 2:2) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.* It is the wisdom of ministers, to rightly divide the word of truth, and to give to everyone his portion - milk to babes, and solid food to those of full age.
- **That is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.** By the use of the Word of God, our senses are able to discern good from evil! What is my level of discernment of both good and evil?
- **It is by use and exercise that these senses are improved**, being made quicker and stronger to taste the sweetness of what is *good* and true, and the bitterness of what is false and *evil*. Not only reason and faith, but spiritual sense, will teach men to distinguish between what is pleasing and what is provoking to God, between what is helpful and what is hurtful to our own souls!
- **There are spiritual senses as well as those that are natural.** There is a spiritual eye, a spiritual appetite, a spiritual taste. The soul has its sensations as well as the body. These are much depraved and lost by sin, but they are recovered by grace.
- **To discern - The ability to discern is a critical measure of spiritual maturity!** Babies will put *anything* in their mouths! *Babes* are weak in discernment, and will accept any kind of spiritual food. *To discern* implies a sort of spiritual intuition, by which the sensitive Christian can more or less automatically discern whether something is right or wrong! However, this sense is developed only by attaining real maturity in the Scriptures.
- **Leaving those first principles, the basic primary things and going on into full maturity.** That is really our desire. That we might become fully mature in the things of God, in the things of the Spirit and in the Word of God. Growing up and becoming mature, to better discern between good and evil!
- **These Hebrew Christians are reproved for being immature Christian babes.** It is not left to their choice whether they are to be illustrious Christians. God expects each child of His to be as eminent in grace and devotion to God as it is possible for Christ to make him.
- *(Eph 4:13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ!* This ought to be our aim. The motive and the power to seek this we have in our Lord Jesus! May we let nothing satisfy us but living wholly, completely for Christ. He is worthy!

- **Is this the Christ you love and trust? Is this your delight in Him** that He now has delivered you from your disobedience, and makes you strong to live only to obey God and Him? Is Christ precious to you because the salvation He gives is a restoration to obedience?
- **What we need to do is to occupy and exercise our faith in fully receiving this blessed truth!** Jesus is the eternal Son, appointed by the Father as our priest, to introduce us into His presence, and to keep us there. He, Himself was subject to weaknesses and was tried with temptations, that no ignorance or weakness on our part can worry Him, or prevent Him doing His blessed work, if we will only trust Him! Oh, let us worship and honor Him! Let us trust Him! Let our faith claim all He is able and willing to do, that is our God appointed High Priest!

SUMMARY:

Qualifications for High Priesthood – vs. 1-4.

- **For every high priest, appointed for men in things pertaining to God** is appointed by God, offering both gifts and sacrifices for sins. **He can have compassion** on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.
- **No man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God.**

A Priest Forever - 3rd warning – *dull of hearing!* – vs. 5-11;

- **Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest**, but it was He who said to Him: "**YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU ... "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK";**
- **Though He was a Son**, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.** Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and **was heard** because of His godly fear.
- **Having been perfected**, He became the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him!**
- **Called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK**, of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing.**

Spiritual Immaturity – vs. 12-14.

- **For though by this time you ought to be teachers**, You need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God. You have come to need milk and not solid food.
- **For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness**, for **he is a babe.** But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those **who by reason of use** have their *senses exercised to discern both good and evil!*

CLOSING SONG:

JESUS, WHAT A WONDER YOU ARE Juanita Bynum/Maranatha Singers (3:27/3:31)

Jesus, What A Wonder You Are. You Are So Gentle So Pure And So Kind You Shine Like The Morning Star Jesus, What A Wonder You Are. (3X)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over *Hebrews Chapter 6!*