

Jesus Everything

THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOK OF HEBREWS

January 8, 2017

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

“The only way to win a race is to get in front and go flat out... It takes a whole lot of hard training and self-discipline.” – Peter Snell, Olympic Gold Medalist

The PROBLEM

“... you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen. You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.” – Hebrews 5:11-12

The DEPTH of our discipleship is DEPENDENT on the DESIRES of our heart

- Spiritual APATHY
- Spiritual IGNORANCE
- Spiritual STAGNATION

“Christian maturity is the capacity to distinguish moral good from moral evil, which in turn means being able to continue to pursue the course of righteous action and avoid apostasy.” – Ben Witherington, Letters and Homilies for Jewish Christians

The PRESCRIPTION

“Let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again... And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.” – Hebrews 6:1-3

The Early Church's Understanding of Christian Life and Discipleship

1. COME = Belong
2. GROW = Believe
3. GO = Become

The PREDICAMENT

“For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened – those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come – and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.” – Hebrews 6:4-6

“*adynaton*” [Greek]: “impossible, completely unable, without power to accomplish the end in view”

“Apostacy... is the sin of abandoning God, Christ, and the fellowship of believers.” – Fred B. Craddock, The Letter to the Hebrews

- No yet a REALITY

“Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you.” – Hebrews 6:9

- But a dire WARNING

“These words were intended to have a specific emotional effect, not comment in the abstract about what is impossible... Our author chooses to describe apostasy in horrific terms... shocking language. Our author seems to believe that one can go too far, past the point of no return and no restoration.” – Ben Witherington

The PLAN

“We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.” – Hebrews 6:9-12

When it comes to living as a Christian

- We hold in tension GOD'S FAITHFULNESS and OUR EFFORT
- Perseverance creates PERMANENCE
- Hang on...Keep on keeping on...STAY in the game!
- The BEST is yet to come!