

## DULL HEARERS & MILK DRINKERS

HEBREWS 5:11-6:3

<sup>11</sup> About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

**6** Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And this we will do if God permits.

### Dull Hearers (v.11)

*Notice the warnings thus far in Hebrews...*

*2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*

*3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession...*

*3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness...*

*3:12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

*4:1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.*

*4:11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.*

*4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

### How can I tell if I've become dull of hearing?

- **When you hear the truth of God, are you \_\_\_\_\_ by it?**
- **Does the truth of God cause you to want to love Him more and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him?**

*Hebrews 6:11-12 <sup>11</sup> And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

- The opposite of dullness is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't be sluggish in your walk with Christ, but be an \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

*Luke 8:18 "Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."*

- When God's Word becomes \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives, we need to examine our hearts!

### Spiritual Babies, Milk & Maturity (v.12-14)

*"Our preacher finds the hearers' condition especially egregious in light of their long-term involvement in the church. By now they 'ought to be teachers,' but instead need someone else to teach them... These milk drinkers are in a perilous situation because they have neither an understanding nor an inclination toward deeper matters of the faith by which one understands the importance and means of perseverance... The author wishes to challenge his hearers with this image of maturity that they might wade with him into the deeper waters of the following chapters. His hope is that they will repent of their spiritual immaturity, grasp hold of the deeper matters of faith, and, ultimately, endure in the face of persecution." -- George Guthrie, The NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews, pp. 202-204*

### What marks a maturing believer?

- They \_\_\_\_\_ what they know about the Bible to their lives.

*The ones that have become "dull of hearing" have stopped applying the truth they know. Notice the words, "**trained by constant practice.**"*

*What we do PROVES that we are maturing in our faith.*

- Following Christ is about what we \_\_\_\_\_ AND what we \_\_\_\_!
- Discipleship \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

*Matthew 28:18-20 <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

### Lets Move On (6:1-3)

- Moving on from the elementary doctrine of Christ is not the same as moving on from the \_\_\_\_\_!

*WE NEVER MOVE PAST THE GOSPEL! We move deeper into it, but never past it!*

*The author of Hebrews is not saying that these things aren't important. He's saying, "This is elementary. Let's move on! Let's start applying these things so we can move forward!"*

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- The opposite of dullness is diligence.
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- When God's Word becomes ambient noise in our lives, we need to examine our hearts!

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- Discipleship involves knowledge and leads to obedience!

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