

Prayer:

Context:

Starting in chapter 4:14 the writer transitioned to write about the High Priest. Prior to 4:14 the writer was warning the Hebrew people not to fall away. The writer gave the example of the Hebrew people in Numbers 14. This was the situation when Moses sent spies to see the land of Canaan. All but two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, were scared of the people in the land. Because of their lack of faith, God punished Israel by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

The writer was writing about Jesus as the great High Priest from 4:14 until now. In 5:6 the writer says that Jesus is the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. The writer spends the next few verses (until 5:10) talking about Melchizedek. We spent several minutes talking about Melchizedek last week.

Melchizedek is found in Genesis 14. He was a priest-king. He was the king of Salem. Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe, being 10 percent, of his spoils from the battle he had with the kings of the east who had taken his nephew Lot. Melchizedek was a priest who was not of the priestly line which would be the line of descent from Aaron or the Levites. Jesus is the great High Priest even though He is not from the line of Aaron or the Levites. Abram submitted to Melchizedek and Abram was prior to Moses and prior to Aaron so it should follow the Melchizedek is someone important.

Now we move on to 5:11-14

Just an observation: as we move into these verses, and the rest of the letter of Hebrews, I see the writer get a little more aggressive. In 1 Corinthians for the first few chapters Paul was somewhat mild, then at the end of chapter 4, of 1 Corinthians Paul went on the attack. I see that happening in Hebrews. I think the writer has been holding back. I have heard the expression, "You kiss them, and then you hit them!" That is what I see in Hebrews. The author is about to get more direct.

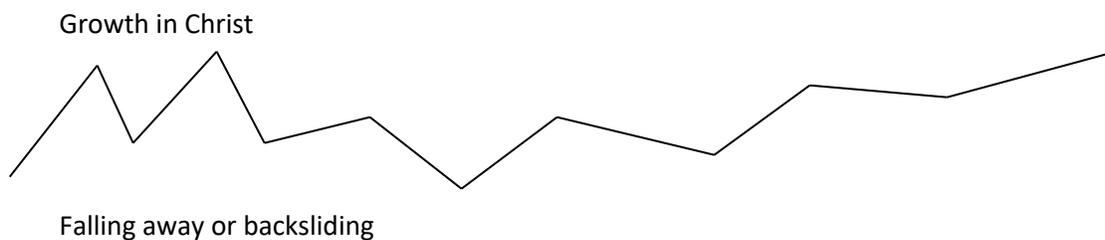
Verse by verse analysis:

Verse 11:

Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

- He has more to say about "this" (NIV) or "him" (NASB). He is talking about the Melchizedek priesthood
- The Greek actually says "whom" this is a masculine pronoun, so it would follow that this should mean, "much to say about him." Or "Melchizedek"
- Now I see an insult. It is hard to explain
 - This could imply something, which it certainly does

- The writer says they are “slow to learn” or “dull of hearing” (NASB)
 - This implies that they are having a willful problem in learning or that they have a condition causing them to be “slow to learn”
- In the NASB and in the Greek it says “Become” prior to “slow to learn” or “dull of hearing.”
 - This implies they have not always been this way. It is something recent
 - →This is important. I have seen this type of thing happen with others and probably even myself. One becomes a Christian and they are dedicated. They come to everything and start learning and growing in Christ. Then something changes or something causes a change.
 - I once heard a Christian and Missionary Alliance Pastor describe the process of sanctification—God’s setting apart someone for His glory—which is shown by spiritual growth:



- It is important that we keep studying and learning. I think something that is unsaid but comes out of this passage is that it is important to learn things to do with our faith

Verse 12:

¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

- The author says that they all should be teachers
- But by the rest of the sentence and previous sentence it is easy to tell that he is saying they should be able to teach because they have been Christians long enough to have developed knowledge of Christ and the Word to teach
 - However, they are not able to teach
 - They are still learning the basics, the “elementary truth.”
 - But not any elementary truths—God’s Word or the “oracles of God.”

Wednesday Night Bible Study on Hebrews
Hebrews 5:11-14
May 27, 2020

- They need someone to teach them
- All over again, it is like they have been taught but they have forgotten or they are not exhibiting by live and knowledge what they have been taught.
- The author goes further to describe their situation: they need milk not solid food. He describes them as babes in Christ.
 - →how true is this of the church across America today
- In chapter 7 there will be more advanced teaching, more meat of the Word

Verse 13:

¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

- The author adds to the comment about them being on milk. If they are on milk, they are still and infant
- If they are still an infant, they are not “acquainted,” or “accustomed” to the Word of righteousness
 - What is the Word of righteousness? I think the author simply means that they are not acquainted with the deeper things of the Gospel, of right living.

Verse 14:

¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- Now the author shows a contrast between the milk and the solid food
- Solid food is for the mature
- The mature can distinguish good from evil
- The mature believer can only do this by constant use of training
 - →there are so many Christians in evil because of their ignorance. I believe this to be true of the things that Christians are getting into: certain movies, tv and music, as well as poor stewardship of other things
 - The cults are the unpaid bills of the church