

BE SHARP – Hebrews 5:11-6:20



THE POINT

- Jewish believers have stepped out of Judaism into Christ and want to go back because of persecution.
- He urges them to “go on to perfection” because of the superiority of Christ to Moses’ law.
- There is more to be gained in Christ than to be lost in Judaism.
- Pressing on produces tested faith, self-discipline, and a visible love seen in good works.

THE PROBLEM (5:11-14)

- **Christians have become spiritually lazy and shallow Christians.**
 - “You ought to be teachers...”
 - “You need someone to teach you again...”
 - “You need milk not solid food...”

THE NEED

- “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (14)
- Their need was not more intelligence – they had the ability to learn.
- “About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing” (11)
- Dull – Slow – Slothful – Lazy

THE NEED

- **There is a need to move forward and grow deeper in faith and maturity.**
 - “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity...” (6:1)
 - “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (5:14)

THE WARNING (6:4-8)

- A Point of no return -- **DO NOT FALL BACK AND BE DULL (SLUGGISH). BE SHARP!**
 - Impossible to renew those to repentance who:
 - Have been enlightened – received a knowledge of truth
 - Have tasted the heavenly gift – God’s grace, mercy, etc.
 - Have shared in the Holy Spirit – miraculous or ordinary
 - Have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come – received the blessings that come from being in the kingdom of God.

THE WARNING (6:4-8)

- Two great illustrations to show the difference between one who is sharp and going on to perfection and those who are dull and fall back.
- **‘For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.’ (6:7-8**

The Conclusion

- Do not fall back and not to be dull or sluggish.
- Show the same earnestness so that you have the full assurance of hope until the end.
- Do not lose your faith and fall away from the Lord and all of his goodness.
- Imitate those who through faith and longsuffering inherit the promises.
- Press forward like the example of those before us so that we also obtain the promises of the rest and the promises given to Abraham.