Jesus, Our Great High Priest

Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son

Hebrews 5:11–6:20

Why it’s time to grow up. . .

[Jesus not only is our Great High Priest, He is a Priest of an altogether different Order. . . 5:1-10]

You need to learn more about Jesus in this “New Role,” but it’s difficult to explain to people who have stalled so much in their growth that while they should be teaching others, all they are applying to themselves is gospel ABC’s. . . 5:11-14

So let’s get on with it, and build upon the basics you already know. With God’s help we will. 6:1-4

For there are some who can’t even get back to Jesus basics, since after seeing clearly His divinity and power, and hearing God’s Word for themselves, their total and final rejection leaves them as fruitless as burned-over fields, ripe for God’s righteous judgment. 6:5-8

But it would appear that things are different with you, and since you have begun well (God is merciful to remember the fruit you bear), we are doing all we can to ensure that you endure to attain the fulfillment of Gospel promises 6:9-12

Because God’s never-failing promise of salvation is secured with His oath (like the one He gave to assure Abraham), providing an anchor to the soul that can never be removed, secured by Jesus through the new Priesthood. 6:13-20

*Another Warning. . .*

Our author is spurring his readers to continue in the faith, knowing that many do not. Let’s sort

out what this particular warning tells us, and why we can have “full assurance” of our salvation, not in spite of, but because of, these warnings.

*1. Immaturity is not apostasy (rejection of the faith).*

While immaturity is not a good thing, and keeps us from the best thing, it is a stunting of our

faith, and not a rejection of it. See 1 Corinthians 2, 3.

*2. Maturity comes as we apply what we know about Jesus, not when we discover some “deeper” truths*

*or doctrines.*

The milk/meat contrast is not about quality of doctrines, but how (and if) they are applied. There are no deeper doctrines than Christ crucified, the indwelling Spirit, and the love of God, all of which are faith’s pure basics. *Our immaturity shows when we are not applying these truths to our life and relationships.*  This is why some have been in Christ for decades and still are cynical, prejudiced, unloving, and flit from church to church. Notice how often petty, non-doctrinal issues arise in the New Testament churches. Phil. 4:2, 3; 1 Thess. 5:12-14; 2 Thess. 3:10-12; James 4:11, 12.

*3. Full assurance of faith comes from God’s Word, not our works.*

While Hebrews warns us not to reject Christ, and to remain faithful, *it is God’s word and power which give us assurance of salvation,* not our own righteousness. The point of the entire section is that we can remain faithful only because our God, who can not lie, and who confirms His promise with an oath, has appointed His Son a Great High Priest and Intercessor, NOT according to the Law of Moses, but according to His sovereign grace. See Titus 3 as a narrative on *how our works are a product of His grace.*