

# HEBREWS

## "NO TURNING BACK"

### Lesson 9

**Ice Breaker:** Do you have a favorite meal? If so, what is it? Did you always like it, or did you develop a taste for it as you got older?

**INTRO:** Most people find that their tastes change as they mature. When we are children, we often can't handle foods we crave when we become mature. The same is true with spiritual food. The Hebrews writer challenges us to learn how to eat with grown ups!

**READ: Hebrews 5:8-6:3**

*8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.*

*11 We have much to say about this, **but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.** 12 In fact, though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 **Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.** 14 But solid food is for the mature, **who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.***

*1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.*

Q: Who was Melchizedek? (Gen 14:18-20) The Hebrew writer doesn't tell them much about Melchizedek here. Why is that? (vs. 11)

- "Slow to learn" comes from the Greek word "*nothros*", which means lazy or sluggish.

Q: Does verse 12 suggest God expects everyone to be a teacher?

- There are different **types** of teachers.
- **1Peter 3:15** "*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*"
  - If you are lazy and slow to learn, how well will you be able to give that answer and teach someone else?

Q: Verse 13 suggests some Christians refuse to grow up spiritually, preferring instead to live on milk. If spiritual infants are unacquainted with the teaching about righteousness, what would a spiritual infant look like?

- A spiritual infant relies on others to feed them rather than feeding themselves.
- They know that Jesus is Lord, but they don't know or don't care what pleases Him, so they operate by common sense and personal preference.
- They have to rely on what their church, preacher or mentor tells them to do because they don't know how to find the Lord's will on their own.

Q: What does a spiritually mature person look like and how does one become spiritually mature? (vs.14)

- Spiritually mature people feed themselves on God's Word.
- They want to understand WHY doing one thing is right and doing another thing is wrong.
- They look for principals rather than rules.
- They let their church, preacher and mentors help them learn, but they don't let them do their thinking for them!

Q: Read Ch. 6:1 again. How good of a house would you build if you kept laying the foundation over and over again?

- Is this a house you would want to live in? Why or why not?

Q: What does the Hebrews writer consider the elementary teachings? (Ch. 6, vs. 2)

**APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT:** *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Honestly, what do usually feed on; milk or solid food? Why?
2. How acquainted are you with "teaching about righteousness"? (Vs.13)
3. Do you really want to grow up and be spiritually mature?
  - a. If yes, what are you doing to get the nourishment you need?
  - b. If no, will you be offended when people treat you as a spiritual baby?