

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 5:11-14**.
- B. I have an axiom that I discovered to be true as a result of my observation of teachers in High School and College. It is: he who has ceased to learn is not qualified to teach.
- C. The Hebrews writer has many things to say, but cannot because the brethren had become dull of hearing (Heb. 5:11).
Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
- D. By this time they should have been teachers of the elementary things, so they could move on to more mature subjects.

I. MILK AND SOLID FOOD.

- A. The writer makes a comparison of the elementary things (that are essential) and the more difficult teachings with the metaphor of milk and solid food.
- B. All infants need milk when first born, they cannot handle solid food. Young Xians need the milk of the word, but must learn to go on to solid food.
- C. Truly, some things in the Scriptures are easy to understand (1Pet. 2:2; 1Cor. 3:2-3).
(1Pet 2:2) like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
(1Cor 3:2-3) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?
- D. By intellectual and spiritual growth we can handle solid food, "acting like men." Only children (the immature) are tossed to and fro (Eph. 4:13-14).
until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;...
- E. Some things in the Scriptures are difficult to understand. Notice how the untaught, distort what they can't handle (2Pet. 3:15-16).
and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

II. WHAT KIND OF TEACHER ARE WE?

- A. Everyone needs to become a teacher (in some way). That's what the text says (see Heb. 5:12).
- B. Teachers, unlike students (the immature) are to discern between good and evil. Things in the world aren't always "black and white," so some knowledge and experience are necessary to make the right decisions (Heb. 5:14).
But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- C. Spiritual maturity is not just a matter of time. ("By this time... the Hebrew writer said.)
Spiritual maturity takes discipline, prayer, Bible study, memorization... and time.
- D. What kind of teacher are you? Can you give an honest answer? Are you one who believes you can handle the Word accurately? (1Pet. 3:15; 2Tim. 2:15).
(2Tim 2:15) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
(1Pet 3:15) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
- E. As a Xian, can you do the following? Can you tell someone:
 - 1. Why we take the LS weekly?

2. Why we sing in worship a cappella?
3. Why we are not denominationally affiliated?
4. How to become a Xian (the plan of salvation)?

III. WHAT ARE WE, BABES OR MEN?

- A. Rightly dividing the word of truth comes from diligent study, prayer and meditation. Let's not be like the following preacher... (read humorous story).
- B. Without good teaching that makes other teachers the church will only last one generation. Are we teaching our children and others so that they can teach others also? Notice the four generations of teaching; Paul to Timothy, Timothy to faithful men, faithful men to others, who will teach (2Tim. 2:2). *And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*
- C. How many years have you been a Xian? I am 29 years old in X, but it wasn't until I was 8 (spiritually speaking) that I knew how to teach someone else the plan of salvation. In some ways, I wasted those 8 years! What about you?
- D. How could a Xian go to the judgment seat of X, desiring to go to heaven, and yet be unable to teach someone else what they did to be saved?
- E. Physically speaking maturity doesn't come until age 18 or 21; but in X you can grow up as fast as you want to.
- F. I'm not asking for everyone to be able to teach on the books of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah and Revelation; but I am asking that you know the basics (faith, repentance, washings, laying on of hands, the resurrection and judgment).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. I close the lesson with two challenges.
- B. First, if you don't know how to lead someone to X; tell me after services I will teach you, in your home, how to do it.
- C. Second, if you know how to do that then my challenge to you, try to know at least one thing that happens or is taught in every chapter of the NT.
- D. This has not been a lesson for non-Xians. Yet, we want to extend the opportunity for those desiring to be saved to come.
- E. As Xians, if there are sin problems in your life, the invitation is for you also.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.

“Correctly Handling the Truth”

An old preacher, attempting to prove his ability as a Bible student, told the story of the good Samaritan in these words:

“A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and he fell among thieves. And they beat him and kick and leave him on the roadside to die.

“And the Queen of Sheba, she come by and give him a hundred changes of raiment and a thousand talents of gold. And he jump in her chariot and go sky-larking off through the woods. And he run under a big oak tree and there he hung. And three wise men come by and they cut him down. And he fell on stony ground. And it rained for forty days and forty nights, and he went and hid himself in a cave. And the raven come and fed him on locust and wild honey.

“And when it quit raining he come out and a man say to him, ‘Come with me to supper.’ And he said, I caint. I done married a wife and the seven foolish virgins done burnt up the oil.’ So he went out in the highways and byways and he found Daniel in the lion’s den. And say to Daniel, ‘Daniel you put on your coat of many colors and let’s go up to Jerusalem.’

“So Daniel did, and they did. And up in Jerusalem he saw Queen Jezebel sitting high in a window. And she laugh at him and make him mad. And he say, ‘Throw her down,’ and they throw her down and then throw her down seven more times. Then she laugh at him again, and he say, ‘Throw her down some more.’ So they threw her down seventy times seven, and of the fragments they pick up twelve baskets full.”

The congregation was truly amazed when they had heard this, and thought him to be a Bible scholar, because he knew his Bible from generations to revolutions.