

Refrigerator Notes 18 October 2015

Spiritual Maturity

Hebrews 5 1-15

1. The Hebrew writer needed to teach the people about Jesus being the 'High Priest', but needed to address an issue that was much more pressing
2. The issue that the Hebrew writer needed to address was the inability of the people wanting to learn the Word of God
3. The real problem though was that the people did not have a learning disability, but they were "Dull of Hearing"
4. The people who needed to be taught first in the church were the leaders
5. The ability of the people to learn the word of God was compared to a child's ability to learn
6. The writer of Hebrews reminded us that the 'Greek Word' NOTHROS meant slow moving mind, a person needing more time to comprehend or process the Word of God logically
7. Although the author of Hebrew does not specify a time period for the overseers (leaders of the church) to learn the word of God, the author suggested it need not take a life time to absorb the Word of God
8. The author suggested that the first thing that the people needed to learn was God's word of **truth!**
9. The second thing the author suggested was that growth in learning the word of God was important (Growth is so important to God that arrested development is universally regarded as a tragedy, because we have become so numb to God's Word)
10. Third, (paraphrase) Though we should not be like infants on milk, but solid food as adults
11. The first mark of spiritual immaturity is our 'dullness toward the Word of God'
12. That leaders of the church ought to be teachers, at least the elementary truths of God's word, needed to be taught to their congregation
13. The second mark of spiritual immaturity was the inability of leaders to share the Word of God with others!
14. But it was impossible for leaders to share the word of God, until they themselves have been taught the Word of God, which was the real tragedy in the text
15. But know that the word of God cannot be taught to anyone, if they are not willing to learn the Word of God
16. The third mark of spiritual immaturity was 'an insufficient diet' – "For anyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for one is considered to be a babe"
17. 2Peter 3.18 says, "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
18. If one has not progressed to the point where they are somehow able to teach the word of God to others, then they are still spiritually immature and should not be leaders in the church!