

WHO'S THE GREATEST?

(Letter to the Hebrews)

WARNING: DON'T BECOME UNFRUITFUL

(Hebrews 5:11-6:8)

SPIRITUALLY IMMATURE (5:11-14)

- The audience of the letter was slow to learn concerning truths about Jesus Christ (11).
- They should have been able to teach others, but still required basic Christian teaching (12).
- They were spiritually immature, likened to babes who were unable to digest solid food (13-14).

PRESS ON TO MATURITY! (6:1-8)

- The readers were being encouraged to progress beyond the basic teachings about Jesus Christ to a more mature, unwavering faith in Him (1-3).
- They were being warned not to fall into a state of unfruitfulness; having become Christians, there was no “turning back” to their former ways (4-8; note also verses 9-12).
- Note that this passage may also speak as a warning to those who have come short of a genuine saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Application

Perhaps you have had the gospel explained to you and know that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness. However, you have fallen short of putting your trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour, instead falling back to your old pattern of thinking (*“I’m not a bad person”*; *“Surely God wouldn’t send a person like me to hell”*; *“There must be other ways to heaven besides Jesus”*). To have been enlightened of your need for salvation (and the way to have it through Jesus Christ) is an opportunity that you must not pass up. To do so would be the greatest error of your life. Today is the day of your salvation. If you neglect the way of forgiveness that God has provided for you, the day will come when you will surely regret it.

Perhaps you have made a profession of faith in Christ as Saviour. However, you’ve experienced trials, given in to temptation, and fallen away from living your life by faith in Christ. Christianity doesn’t seem to be making a real difference in your life – your faith is wavering and you’re beginning to go back to living your life the way you did before you became a Christian. The passage we’ve looked at today speaks to you. Jesus Christ is the way (John 14:6). There is no turning back – you will not find the love, peace and joy that you are in need of if you fall away from trusting in Christ as you first did. Perhaps you are afraid that you have “lost” your salvation? If you trust in Christ for forgiveness, fear not. God is loving and patient. There is no condemnation for those who trust in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). Confess your shortcomings and failures to God and trust that Christ paid for all of your sins at Calvary’s cross (1 John 1:9). Give Christ the pre-eminent place in your life that He so rightly deserves, and resume your walk with Him. Start reading your Bible again; make friends with other believers, and make prayer and church attendance priorities in your life. Seek to use your resources, talents and spiritual gifts to serve God and others – be fruitful!