

III. THE EXPECTATION OF THE HEBREW BELIEVERS (Hebrews 5:11-14)

A. The Problem Presented (Hebrews 5:11-12)

1. The problem of stalled growth (Hebrews 5:11)
 - a. The desire for additional enlightenment
 - (1) The apostle still had “many things” he desired to teach the Hebrew believers.
 - (2) He desired to teach them more of the doctrine of Christ.
 - a) Seen by the words of Hebrews 5:11—“Of whom” [see Hebrews 5:5-10]
 - b) Seen by the words of Hebrews 6:1—“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ”
 - (3) Paul desired to teach them other necessary doctrines (Hebrews 6:2).
 - b. The hindering agent
 - (1) The things were hard to be uttered.
 - a) The difficulty was not that of a language barrier.
 - b) Instead, it was a difficulty brought about because of the deficiency of the audience.
 - c) Peter said of Paul’s letter to the Hebrews that it included “some things hard to be understood” (2 Peter 3:16).
 - d) Others had similar situations where there were things desired to be said, but were withheld at the present time (John 16:12; 1 Corinthians 3:1-2).
 - (2) The people were dull of hearing.
 - a) Prophetically, the Lord understood that Jews were going to have great difficulties as it pertained to hearing the truth (Isaiah 6:10).
 - b) This prophetic view was verified during the Lord’s earthly ministry (Matthew 13:10-16; Mark 8:17-21; Luke 24:13-27).
 - c) This prophetic view was further verified during the continued ministry of the apostles (Acts 28:23-29).
 - d) In fact, the apostle Paul was the one who stated this of the Hebrews (Acts 28:23-29) and now was stating it to the Hebrews (Hebrews 5:10).
 - e) Perhaps the hindrances came as a result of
 - i) Elevation of man’s traditions (Matthew 15:3-9)
 - ii) General carnality (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
 - iii) Unwillingness to obey light (John 14:21)

2. The problem of unmet expectations (Hebrews 5:12)
 - a. The stated expectations
 - (1) They ought to be teachers.
 - (2) They ought to be dieting on strong meat.
 - b. The stated conditions
 - (1) They needed to be retaught those things “which be the first principles of the oracles of God.”
 - (2) They “are become such as have need of milk.”

B. The Natural Growth Expected (Hebrews 5:13-14)

1. The inference of salvation and a spiritual diet
 - a. The new birth
 - (1) The event of the new birth
 - a) Necessity for life (John 3:3)
 - b) Spiritual in nature (John 3:4-7)
 - c) Instantaneous (1 John 3:14)
 - (2) The product of the new birth—a newborn babe in Christ (1 Peter 2:2)
 - b. Childhood
 - (1) The diet of childhood
 - a) The food—milk (Hebrews 5:12-13)
 - i) Basic doctrines
 - ii) Practical lessons
 - b) The process—fed (Hebrews 5:12)
 - (2) The expectations of childhood
 - a) Needy
 - i) In need of fellowship
 - ii) In need of guidance
 - iii) In need of protection
 - b) Zealous
 - c) Gullible (Ephesians 4:14)
 - i) Concerning truth
 - ii) Concerning others
 - iii) Concerning self
 - d) Immaturity (1 Corinthians 3:3)
 - i) Envy
 - ii) Strife
 - iii) Divisions
 - e) Emotional
 - f) Growth (Hebrews 5:12)

- c. Adulthood
 - (1) The diet of adulthood
 - a) The food—meat (1 Corinthians 3:2-3; Hebrews 5:12-14)
 - i) Sound Bible doctrine
 - ii) Practical
 - b) The process
 - i) Exercise (Hebrews 5:14)
 - ii) Study (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - (2) The expectations of adulthood
 - a) Self-sufficiency
 - b) Wisdom (Romans 16:19)
 - c) Stability (Ephesians 3:17-18)
 - d) Sobriety (1 Peter 5:8)
 - i) Concerning truth (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8)
 - ii) Concerning others
 - iii) Concerning self (Romans 12:3)
 - e) Maturity (1 Corinthians 13:11-13)
 - i) Faith
 - ii) Hope
 - iii) Charity
 - f) Growth
 - g) Reproduction
 - i) New believers
 - ii) Strengthened believers
- 2. The conditions of the babe (Hebrews 5:13)
 - a. He useth milk or has “need of milk” (Hebrews 5:12). Note: This is not sinful if the milk is used to help the believer grow (1 Peter 2:2).
 - b. He “is unskilful in the word of righteousness.”
 - (1) As such, he is prone to being drawn away to teachers (Romans 2:17-24).
 - (2) He is prone to carnality (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).
- 3. The conditions of the mature Christian (Hebrews 5:14)
 - a. He is of full age.
 - (1) This involves the passing of “time” (Hebrews 5:12).
 - (2) This speaks to a person’s maturity.
 - b. He consumes strong meat.
 - c. He has exercised his senses.
 - (1) They have used their senses.
 - (2) Their senses become stronger or “exercised” as a result.
 - d. He is able to discern both good and evil.