

March 5 – Hebrews 5 & 6 - Time to grow up

Please go to parksidechristian.com to listen to the March 5th sermon if you were not able to be in attendance. Take the time to read aloud Hebrews 5:11- 6:12.

As we see in this passage that the teacher is kind of “chewing out the class” for not listening or caring – do you recall a time in your school career when you were chewed out by a teacher for some minor or major infraction?

Honestly assess where you are today in your pursuit of Christian maturity. Are you 1). a longer-time Christian but still a ‘milk drinker’ not desiring to grow or perhaps not understanding how to grow? Are you a 2). spiritual beginner in following Christ, a ‘milk drinker’ who is actively seeking to learn, and grow and move on? Are you a 3). maturing ‘meat eater’, following God’s purpose, making real progress in growth and fighting for more? [Don’t be too embarrassed or too modest to claim that you are any of the 3. A false assessment won’t be helpful to you.]

If someone else were to look at your commitments to the common Christian disciplines of reading the Bible and praying, would they determine that you are someone who is fighting for maturity in Christ? Here is a simple Bible reading plan that might help you to get started in a reading system. Consider it.

“A Well Balanced” Bible Reading System • Keep 4 Bookmarks in your Bible • Read from each bookmark every day (1 chapter, 1 page, or whatever length fits you best) • Once you reach the end of the bookmark’s cycle, restart it. • Keeps a good balance of New and Old Testament readings • Because different bookmarks cycle through different length books, you won’t be reading the same set of Bible readings at the same time again. • Bookmark #1 – Always in Psalms • Bookmark #2 – Old Testament, cycling through the entire Old Testament, but skipping Psalms • Bookmark #3 – New Testament, cycling through the 4 Gospels & Acts • Bookmark #4 – New Testament, cycling from Romans through Revelation

As another “maturing check”, do you feel you spend more time trying to break bad habits that slow you down as a Christian, or do you feel that you are more in the flow of working to develop good habits that will move you forward?

What are one or two things you believe God would want you to begin in order to pursue greater maturity in your spiritual life? If you can’t think of any, perhaps you could brainstorm a list as a group?

If you see that you need some help from a spiritually maturing person to “get off the dime” in growth, are you willing to seek and accept that? What would need to happen, for that to happen?

If you see that you possess some maturity in Christ, would you be willing to come alongside a younger Christian, and spend some time discussing what it takes to be and become more mature? What would need to happen, for that to happen?

