

Hebrews
5:11-6:20

c. The Warning 5:11-6:20

The warning also expresses itself in three phases and, as with the previous warnings, is geared to the context in which it is expressed. All of these warnings are serious but they would not mean much if the truth presented had not been equally serious. The challenge is to perceive in the Lord Jesus the last word from God and to hear and obey Him. We dare not miss that in Hebrews. In a world like ours where substitute religions and religious ideas are everywhere, there remains only one clear picture of truth: the revelation of the will of God as seen in Christ Jesus.

(1) Phase 1...Hebrews 5:11---6:3

This is a warning against becoming dull in our thinking and being held up on all sorts of details and missing the substance of our faith: Christ, Himself.

5:11-6:3

- Check your hearing skills 5:11
- the danger of spiritual lethargy 5:12
- grow! 5:13-14
 - don't repeat the basics, go on 6:1
 - accept the facts of Christ's work 6:2
 - join with us in growth 6:3

While this warning is often not given the prominence of those that follow it, it is a serious business, just the same. We must accept what the Lord has done, not doubting or questioning it, and be attentive to the Word of God on a solid growth basis. Otherwise we may hear contrary voices that will pull us aside.

(2) Phase 2...Hebrews 6:4-8

Among one of the more difficult warning passages, it is ominous but not damning if carefully considered.

- the character of the subjects 6:4-5
 - enlightened
 - tasters of the heavenly gift
 - spiritually enriched
 - tasters of the word of God
 - observers (?) of the power of God

These phrases have a context in 1 Corinthians 10 and the parallel to the wilderness wanderings is a very important part of the discussion.

- the problem is that..
 - when they fall away 6:6
 - they cannot be renewed unto repentance 6:7
 - because they deny the work of Christ 6:6

Greek participle constructions are used pretty much throughout and the condition is understood rather than stated. They cannot be renewed unto repentance, I think, because they have no ground for same...being experimenters and not fellowshippers in Christ's work.