

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship | Christ Supreme in All Things
December 18, 2022 | “Don’t Be Dull of Hearing” | **Hebrews 5:11-14**

Four Dangers for the Dull of Hearing:

1) Dullness prevents _____ (5:11)

2) Dullness becomes _____ (5:12)

3) Dullness leads to _____ (5:13)

4) Dullness makes one _____ (5:14)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Hebrews 5:11-14. How does this passage relate contextually to the previous section (i.e. Heb 5:1-10)? The author says, “About **this** we have much to say.” What does “this” refer to in that sentence? Why does he change the subject in verse 11 and following?

What does it mean to be “dull of hearing”? Walk through the dangers of dullness above. What is the opposite of dullness? How does the opposite of dullness lead to spiritual health, maturity, and vitality in the church?

The author of Hebrews commends those who discern between good and evil (5:14). How do people in our modern culture categorize good and evil? How do Christians discern between good and evil? How does a Christian grow in discernment so that he or she can differentiate good from evil? What does the Bible say about those who call evil good and good evil (see Isa 5:20)?

GET PERSONAL

Explain the metaphor of milk and solid food. How is this author using this metaphor? Who needs milk? Who needs solid food? What do you need at this stage of your Christian walk? Are you in the category of one who “ought to be” a teacher (5:12)? If so, who are you teaching/discipling? A pastor or an elder is called to teach the Scriptures (1 Tim 3:1-7; 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4). How does that compare with individual Christians (i.e. non-elders) and their responsibility to teach others?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Spiritual maturity is more than just “head knowledge.” But maturity is impossible without intellectual engagement with God’s truth recorded in his Holy Word. Discuss the intersection of knowledge and application for spiritual maturity. How does a Christian take in information for the purpose of transformation? Is it possible to take in information without experiencing transformation? If so, how do you combat that in your discipleship process? For a practical guide on how to read the Bible for transformation, see the following article:

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/reading-the-bible-for-transformation>

ADVANCED QUESTION

Analyze the structure of the book of Hebrews. The author has given two warnings already in this letter: 2:1-4 and 3:7-19. Now he gives an extended warning in 5:11-6:12. How do these warnings function structurally in the book? The author pauses on Melchizedek in 5:10 and then returns to him in 7:1. Why does he do this? What does he address with his audience before he returns to his arguments regarding Melchizedek? For help with the structure of this book, revisit the Bible Project video:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/hebrews/>