

By This Time You Ought To Be Teachers

(Hebrews 5:11-14)

Concerning him, we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

I. Something Is Wrong -- The Disease Called Dullness of Hearing.

- There is something wrong with the Christians he is writing to.

vv 2:1, 3:1, 3:8, 3:12, 4:1, 4:11, 4:14

II. What is the Disease of Dullness of Hearing?

- "Dullness" – means slow or sluggish.

Hebrews 6:12 - We desire that each one of you show the same **diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope** until the end, that you **may not be sluggish** [there's the word for "dull" in our text], but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- "Hearing" - dullness.

Hebrews 4:2 – "For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard."

- "Dullness of hearing" is hearing without faith and without the moral fruit of faith.

Luke 8:18 - "Therefore take care how you hear; for whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."

III. What Is the Remedy?

- Become Mature with Milk.

Verse 14: "Solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil."

- If solid food is only palatable -- digestible -- for the mature, with what food do you become mature so that you can then eat the solid food? You become mature with milk.

- The Way You Drink the Milk.

- What this means is that if you want to grow up and feast on the fullness of God's revelation, you don't do it by jumping from milk to meat.
- The key is the way you drink the milk -- what you do with the milk of the word.

IV. How To Grow With Milk To Maturity.

- First you drink in the milk.
- Savor and swallow and digest and be satisfied.
- With a heart satisfied with God now, discern good and evil.

This is the remedy for "dullness of hearing." *Drink with delight until the desires of your heart are so transformed as to become the discernment of good and evil.* Then you will be mature and ready for meat.