

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Milk, Maturity, and the Meaning of Salvation" on 3/1/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 5:11-6:12 (READ THROUGHOUT)

PRESSING ON TO MATURITY

Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3. The main thesis of these passages is that believers should press on to maturity. The writer of Hebrews starts by saying that some of the people in the church to which he was writing should have moved on to become mentors and teachers. However, instead they had become "dull of hearing." They heard the gospel, but they did not practice it.

- *In your experience, what type of people have you viewed as mature in the faith?*
- *Why is it important to see that a mature person of the faith moves from just learning to acting on what he or she has learned?*

THE CRITICAL JUNCTURE

Read Hebrews 6:4-8. This passage is one of the most difficult passages to interpret in the New Testament. The writer of Hebrews is warning the believers that if they keep ignoring the gospel in their life, then they will find themselves completely rejecting the Holy Spirit. The writer is not determining whether or not people are Christians; however, the writer is describing someone who has participated in the things of Christ, but ultimately rejects Jesus. They describe this rejection of Jesus as "falling away." More than merely "sluggishness of hearing," this idea of "falling away"

means coming to a decisive point when one refuses "once and for all" to press on to maturity.

- *Previously, the writer of Hebrews said that people find themselves drifting away. Now he says that people "fall away." Whether they were saved or not, people who drift away from Jesus may find themselves rejecting Jesus. Why should we all check our commitment to Jesus?*
- *Even though you are fully committed to Jesus, what are some specific areas in your life where you feel like you are drifting away from Him?*

BEING SURE OF OUR HOPE

Read Hebrews 6:9-12. At this point, some people start to question their commitment to Jesus. Some of this may be healthy. Jesus himself says, "Those who endure to the end will be saved." (Matthews 10:22). Maybe some of us need to hear these hard words because we need to refocus our commitment to Jesus. However, the writer anticipates that these warning will produce some unhealthy anxiety. He goes on to say that we can have full assurance in the hope of our salvation.

Full assurance of salvation comes when we place our confidence in Christ alone for our salvation.

- *While it can be healthy to reassess your commitment to Jesus, when does it become unhealthy to doubt your salvation?*
- *God is the only one who judges salvation. If you find yourself worried for someone else's salvation, what should you do for them?*
- *Pray with each other to rest solely in Christ.*