INTRODUCTION

- We move from talking about milk or “elementary teachings” of Christianity to more grandiose concepts of the New Covenant

### Lessons This Quarter

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### Grow in Faith

- The author stresses the difference between basic elements of Christianity that we all need to know that grounds us, and the deeper elements of our faith that promote maturity.
- vv1-2. The 6 elementary teachings are: 1) Repentance, 2) Dead Works, 3) Faith, 4) washings/Baptism, 5) Laying on of Hands (for service); and 6) Resurrection and Judgment.
- v3. “And this will we do, if God permits” – Since God allowed this letter to be completed, He permitted the author to proceed teaching the deeper issues that promote maturity. These deeper issues are:
  1. Chapter 6 – There are tares among the wheat, and God’s immutability gives us strong encouragement to be bold for Him
  2. Chapter 7 – The priesthood of Christ (after the order of Melchizedek) assures us of our salvation, which promotes boldness
  3. Chapter 8 – The New Covenant opens up new promises
  4. Chapter 9 – Christ’s second coming will culminate our salvation
  5. Chapter 10 – We are perfected for all time through Christ’s death
  6. Chapter 11 – By Faith in Christ we can accomplish anything
  7. Chapter 12 – We are perfected through trials and discipline
  8. Chapter 13 – This chapter stresses more basic teachings such as love of others, hospitality, strong marriages, sharing/giving.

### Main Doctrines of Christianity

- We only have about a dozen major teachings in Scripture. Everything else is basically an elaboration on these essentials:
  1. Theology – Doctrine of God
  2. Christology – Doctrine of Christ
  4. Anthropology – Doctrine of Man
  5. Hamartiology – Doctrine of Sin
  7. Ecclesiology – Doctrine of the Church
  8. Angelology – Doctrine of Angels
  9. Eschatology – Doctrine of Last Things
  10. Bibliology – Doctrine of the Scriptures
  11. Heavenology – Doctrine of Heaven and Hell
  12. Creationology – Doctrine of the Universal Universe

### Don’t Walk Away

- There are 3 common interpretations of this difficult passage
  1. Backslidden believers who lose their salvation;
  2. False believers whose true colors come out;
  3. Hypothetical argument that shows how unthinkable it is for true believers to retreat from their faith
- Personally I believe this passage alludes to false believers (dogs who return to their vomit or pigs who return to the mud) such as Judas, Demas, and those who left the church in 1John 2:19, because they were never part of the body of Christ
- We think they are saved because they followed the formula
- And not until they fail to return or they leave following the first major problem they encounter do we realize their fate is possibly sealed from ever coming to Christ due to an irreversible hardened heart

### Imitate the Faithful

- vv9-10. The author conveys that God has taken note of their works of love for Him, and better things/blessings are expected to happen
- vv11. Diligence in obedience is stressed. What would this diligence look like in our lives?
- vv12. The author makes a statement for us to imitate those who are living by Faith, and who possibly have received their ultimate reward as martyrs. This will be expounded in Chapter 11 – The Hall of Faith

### God’s Immutability Gives us Boldness in our Service

- vv13-16. God was faithful in the OT, so we can expect Him to be just as faithful in the New Covenant
- vv17-18. Two unchangeable characteristics of God: 1) His purpose/goals are solid; and 2) He keeps His promises (oaths).
- This conveys that GOD CANNOT LIE. As Titus 1:2 confirms for us, “In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began”

### Conclusion / Applications / Benefits

- This passage started off with warnings about being infantile in our Christian walk. We need to move on to maturity by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Peter 3:18) – Which is the “strong meat” of the Gospel.
- Even Paul said, “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” ……………………………………1Corinthians 2:2

### Next Week: Hebrews 7

The priesthood of Christ (after the order of Melchizedek) assures us of our salvation, which promotes boldness in service, since we have nothing to lose and everything to gain

Until someone chooses to follow Christ so He can make him a “new creature” the best we can do is to put lipstick on a pig…2 Corinthians 5:17

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