

March 23, 2025

HEBREWS 5:1-14 "Problem Perceived, Problem Presented"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

All passages of Scripture have one primary interpretation, and "may" have one or more applications. This is where the teaching II Timothy 2:15 is made so abundantly clear and essential for proper understanding of the Word of God, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly **dividing** the word of truth." NKJV *emphasis mine*.

Chapters 5-6 require that the Lord's disciples rightly **divide** the word of truth lest they fall into error. The diagnosis is given in **verse 11**, slothfulness, dullness of hearing. The author has been giving the remedy to a known problem within this body of believers; some are listed below:

2:1, pay close attention to the message you heard, lest you drift away.

3:1, consider Jesus.

3:8, do not harden your heart like Israel did.

3:12, watch out so that you won't have an evil unbelieving heart.

4:1, the promise remains, beware that none of you fail to enter God's rest.

4:11, be diligent to enter God's rest because of disobedience like Israel did.

4:14, let us hold fast to our confession.

The author is clearly concerned about *something* goin on in this church.

All of the above are cures to a problem, so what is the diagnosis?

Dullness of hearing. Bear in mind, the opposite of dullness is diligence.

This is a heart problem. No passion, no treasuring/studying of the Word at best spiritual babes.

Dullness of hearing can be dangerous leading to unsound doctrine for the spiritually immature believer and is deadly to those who have never been born again, they remain lost in their sins.

Application:

There are people all over the spectrum when it comes to genuine salvation within this church: **(1)** Those who refuse to grow (immature), **(2)** Those who intellectually think they are okay but are not genuinely saved, and lastly **(3)** Those who are tares within in this group. The goal of this third group is to capitalize on the slothfulness of many in the church, to confuse them, whether they be saved infants or lost people who intellectually think they are saved. The author continues to intensely point to the Superiority of Jesus over all things in the Old Covenant. This sheds light on the reality of some in this church trying to cause a stampede back to Judaism, as one author said. As we strive to understand the message of Hebrews we will do well to keep this in mind that not all of them can be painted in the picture with a single stroke of the brush, a little dividing needs to be done. Let's all pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom to rightly divide the Word of Truth. To this point many remedies for the spiritual sicknesses within this body of believers has been given and today the author

finally gave the diagnosis of the spiritual problem plaguing the church, v 11, Wake up lazy bone