**SERMON SHEET 10/1/23**

**Study of Hebrews #22**

**“It’s Time to Grow Up”**

**Text: Hebrews 5:11-14**

I. Introduction & review

II. The problems of spiritual immaturity.

1. The immature Christian is slow to understand spiritual truth (v. 11).
2. The immature Christian is unable to teach spiritual truth (vs. 12).
3. The immature Christian is ineffective in living out spiritual truth (v. 13).

III. The benefits of spiritual maturity.

1. The mature Christian is able to receive “solid food” (v. 14a).
2. The mature Christian is able to distinguish good from evil (v. 14b).

IV. Conclusion – a final word

**QUOTES**

1. Al Mohler:

* *My father responded in a way I’ll never forget. “You’re ten years old,” he said. “You don’t have a tummy anymore; you have a stomach.” There was a little bite to my father’s words, but it was necessary. In my father’s eyes, the word tummy did not demonstrate my maturation into adolescence. I do not think he expected me to remember this story forty years later, but he certainly expected me to grow up a little by developing my vocabulary and learning to act my age.*
* *All Christians, however, are expected to be teachers in the sense that they should be prepared to train new believers in the fundamentals of the faith. The congregation should consist of willing and maturing disciples who are training up newer and less developed disciples… We grow in the faith for our own sake and for the sake of others.*

2. Simon Kistemaker:

* *The author had planned to continue his teaching on the high priesthood of Jesus in the order of Melchizedek. However, the material is too advanced for his readers, his theology is too deep, and his students are too lazy. The subject matter, says the writer, is difficult to explain, not because of the writer’s lack of skill, but because of the readers’ inability to comprehend.*
* *The ABC’s of the Christian faith are readily mastered by any sincere believer who, in turn, should be capable of imparting this elementary knowledge to people unacquainted with the gospel… The corporate responsibility of the church is to formulate the teachings of the Christian faith. The doctrines of God, man, Christ, salvation, the church, and the end of the age belong to the entire church and not merely to a few gifted theologians who have been instrumental in drafting the precise wording of these doctrines. The church as a body of believers is the responsible agent in formulating, adopting, teaching, and defending these doctrines of the faith. Therefore, the individual Christian is exhorted to progress beyond the level of “the elementary truths of God’s word.”*

3. Charles Spurgeon:

*It is true of many Christians that they learn very little to any purpose, and always need to be going over the A B C of the gospel. They never get into the classics, the deep things of God; they are afraid of the doctrine of election, and of the doctrine of the eternal covenant, and of the doctrine of the sovereignty of God, for these truths are meant for [believers] of full age, and these poor puny babes have not cut their teeth yet. They want some softer and more childlike food. Well, it is a mercy that they are children of God; it would be better, however, for them to grow so as to become teachers of others.*

4. Kent Hughes:

*They must understand they are so radically sinful that their own works of righteousness can never save them, and that their only hope is the gift of righteousness from God through Christ.*

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

* **1 Pet. 1:25; 1 Thess. 2:13; Deut. 4:10; James 1:22; Heb. 3:7-8; Ps. 119:162; Ps. 119:47;**

**Ps. 112:1**

* **Rom. 1:17; Phil. 3:8-9; Rom. 6:13; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 3:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:17-18**