

2/28/21

Sermon Description:

Warning labels exist all around us. Some seem absurd such as the one on a kitchen knife (“Never try to catch a falling knife”) or a bottle of dried bobcat urine (“Not for human consumption”). Some are more serious such as those on cigarettes, alcohol, and toxic substances. This week, amidst warnings directed toward the church, we’ll sort through the absurd and the serious in order to pursue Christ with greater passion.

Main Passage:

Heb. 5:11-6:8

Title:

“C’mon, Church!” Leaving Passivity for Passion

Topics:

Church>Discipleship

Tags:

maturity, passion, apostasy, faith, perseverance

Introduction: C’mon, Man!! (Or, An attempt was made) – Several memes to help us experience the emotional temperament of the passage.

Today’s passage: **Hebrews 5:11–6:8**

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. ¹ Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so. ⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. ⁷ Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸ But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

5:11 – “C’mon, Church! You’re sluggish!”

dull of hearing, dull in understanding, slow to learn (literally **sluggish**) - the author writes so they won't be sluggish

The entire problem lies in the spiritual inclination, or better disinclination, of the readers. They are “sluggish” (νωθροί, NET) or “dull” (ESV) or “lazy” (HCSB) and lethargic in their hearing...so the fundamental issue facing the readers isn't intellectual but moral. ¹

¹ Thomas R. Schreiner, *Hebrews*, ed. T. Desmond Alexander, Thomas R. Schreiner, and Andreas J. Köstenberger, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 169.

From sluggish to spirited // From apathy to affection // From lethargy to liveliness
From tired to trusting // From faithless to fervent // From self to Spirit
From Self-Centered to Christ-Centered // From focused on me to focused on him

“C’MON, CHURCH!!!!”

5:12-14 – “C’mon, Church! It’s time to grow up!”

What he means is that every member should be able to explain the elementary and basic elements of God's word to others. The context here clarifies that it is the fundamental truths of God's revelation that they should know and be able to communicate. In that sense they should be able to teach others.¹

¹ Thomas R. Schreiner, *Hebrews*,

What are the elementary truths of God's word? The Scriptures interpreted in the light of the death and exaltation of Jesus. HE HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE SON. (Elem. teachings-->Heb. 6:1-2)

It's NOT that they don't know. They know. It's like if you're watching your little nephews or nieces, or maybe your own kids. They know. You've shared with them 1,000,000 times. You've seen them do it many times. They just don't want to follow through anymore.

How many of us look at the challenges of our world...and get REALLY tired? C'mon, Church!!!

Regarding: use of technology, changes in sexual ethics, belief that more is always the answer, regarding struggles of ethnicity and race in our culture and within the church

QUOTE: What worries the writer about the spiritual infancy of the readers is the danger of slipping into apostasy. He doesn't contemplate the possibility of drinking spiritual milk for years and years and still obtaining eternal life. It is urgent, rather, to leave spiritual infancy behind, for one is either drawing nearer to God or falling away from him. Their spiritual slackness is a matter of greatest concern to the author. ~Thomas R. Schreiner, *Hebrews*, ed. T. Desmond Alexander, Thomas R. Schreiner, and Andreas J. Köstenberger, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 171.

6:1-3 – “C’mon, Church! Let’s move forward!”

We’re not talking about intellectual ability as though only religious elites could become mature. We’re not talking about moral integrity as though only those unsullied by this immoral world could become mature.

We’re talking around intentionality, passion, will, determination, resolve, discipline -- those who will not let sluggishness, laziness, apathy rule their hearts

WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? Non-believers? Jewish believers? Believers in Christ? I’d advocate that the author is speaking to believers. // Elementary teachings ABOUT CHRIST // Milk: Heb. 6:1-2

The evangelistic preaching in Acts calls unbelievers to repent and believe (e.g., [Acts 2:38](#); [3:19](#); [5:31](#); [8:12](#); [10:43](#); [11:18](#), [21](#); [13:39](#); [15:7](#); [16:31](#); [17:30](#); [19:4](#); [20:21](#); [26:20](#); cf. [Mark 1:14–15](#)). The centrality of repentance (cf. [Rom 2:4](#); [1 Thess 1:10](#); [2 Tim 2:25](#)) and faith (cf. [Rom 3:22](#), [28](#); [4:24](#); [9:33](#); [10:9](#); [1 Cor 15:2](#); [Gal 2:16](#); [Phil 3:9](#)) is also prominent in the Pauline letters.

Hebrews 6:2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

The pair of “instruction about cleansing rites and laying on of hands” is particularly difficult to decipher.

Solid food: teaching about Christ as the forever priest. DON’T RETURN TO LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD. Don’t return to previous ways of relating to God.

BUT ALSO, we must move beyond foundational teachings. (E.g. basketball fundamentals)

QUOTE: On the one hand, the readers are held responsible for their spiritual infancy and immaturity. They should be able to grasp what is being taught. They are only drinking milk and need to hear the elementary truths of the faith repeatedly because of their own dullness and spiritual sluggishness. At the same time the writer acknowledges that a spiritual breakthrough will only come “if God permits.” Spiritual maturity is given by God and is a result of his gracious work in the lives of his people. It is imperative to see that these two themes are complementary. ~Thomas R. Schreiner, Hebrews, ed. T. Desmond Alexander, Thomas R. Schreiner, and Andreas J. Köstenberger, *Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 177-178.

6:4-6 – “C’mon, Church! Be Careful!”

The central dispute is whether those addressed are described as Christians or as those who are almost Christians. I will argue here that the language used points to Christians.¹

¹ Thomas R. Schreiner, *Hebrews*, ed. T. Desmond Alexander, Thomas R. Schreiner, and Andreas J. Köstenberger, *Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 181.

Scooby Doo // Judas Iscariot // Prophet without honor in his hometown

I'm like 52% certain!!

It's a redramatizing of what happened with Judas.

The SEED of FAITH comes with a FOREVER commitment to PERSEVERE. The TREE that eventually BLOOMS necessarily has within it that SAME FOREVER commitment to PERSEVERE.

Compare with Parable of the Sower.

Matthew 17:20

²⁰ He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

[*The New International Version*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 17:20–19:26.

Matthew 19:26

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

[*The New International Version*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 19:26.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

[*The New International Version*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Heb 11:6.

Theological connection: **Perseverance of the saints** - their certain continuance in a state of grace. Once justified and regenerated, the believer can neither totally nor finally fall away from grace, but will certainly persevere therein and attain everlasting life.

6:7-8 – “C’mon, Church! Drink in the rain!”

Are you thirsty this morning?

Picture Christ // Consider Christ // He is our merciful and faithful high priest // He is with us // He is for us // Come afresh to him // Press forward in fervency and passion because he emptied himself // Throw off self-centeredness for Christ-centeredness

A taste for next week:

Hebrews 6:9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation.

**C'MON
MAN!**



To recreate Homer



Tails

October 2010 | Volume 1, Issue 1
Complimentary

It's not just a hobby
celebrating the relationship between dogs and their people

EAT, RAY, LOVE

Rachael Ray
finds inspiration
in cooking
her family
and her dog

10 TIPS

TO KEEP YOUR
PET HEALTHY
AND HAPPY



...HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS.
...STOP THE SPREAD.
VDH

VIRGINIA'S HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS.
Do your part, stop the spread.
VDH



NO MASK
≠
NO ENTRY!
Thank you for your cooperation :)
-management

To connect with the youth



To connect with the youth



Mom

M

How did u make that guy ?

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Idk

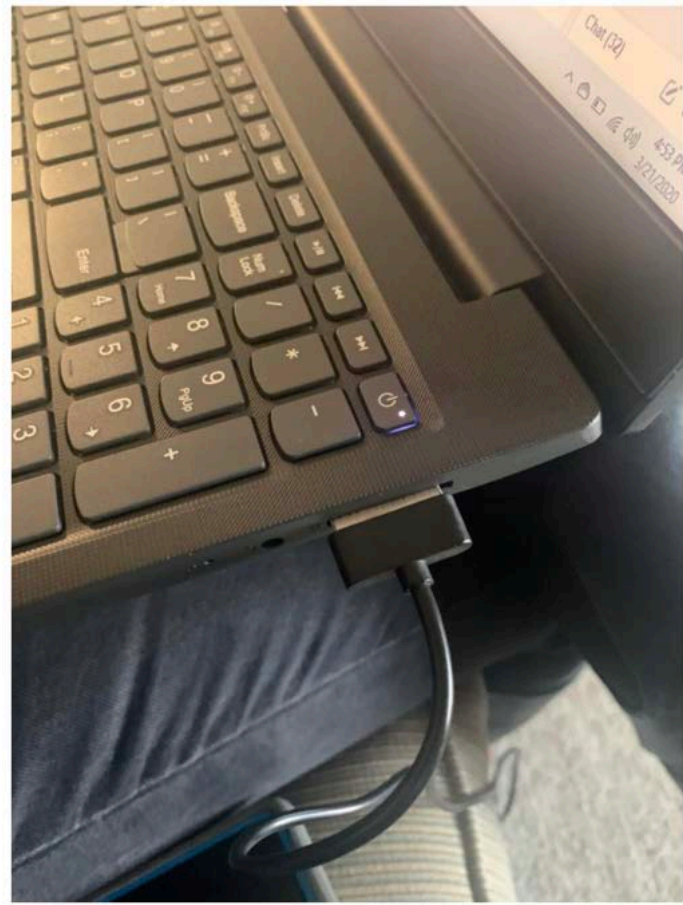
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Mom

M

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My nana said her laptop hasn't charged for over a month, and when I looked to see the problem, I saw she had plugged an iPhone 4 charger into the SD card slot.





I'm no engineer, but good luck





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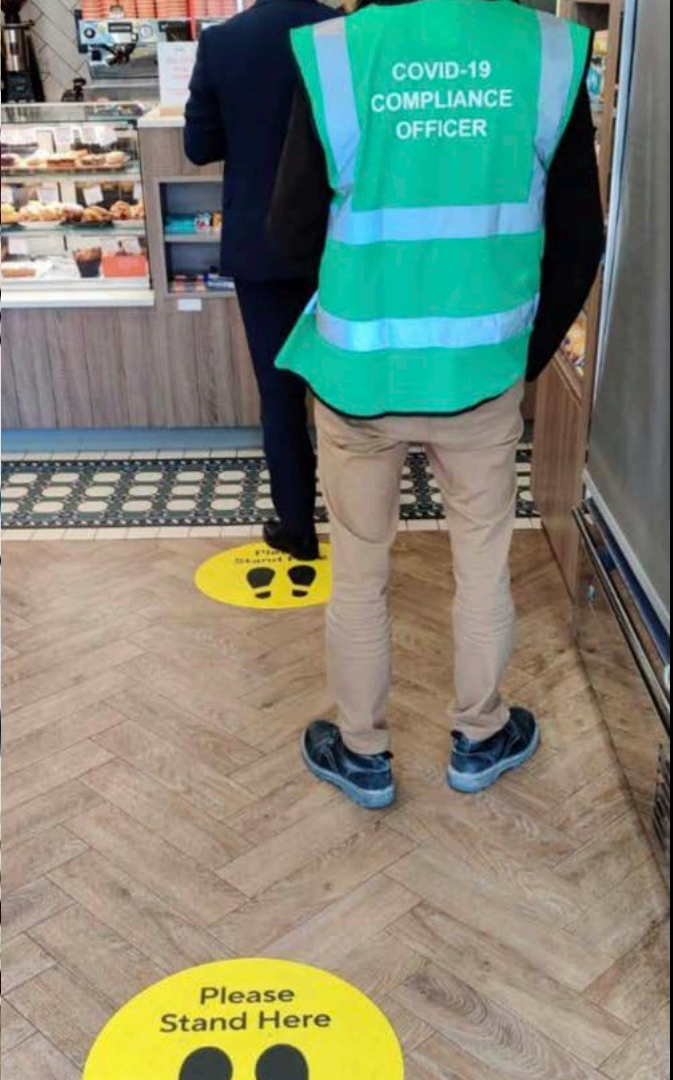




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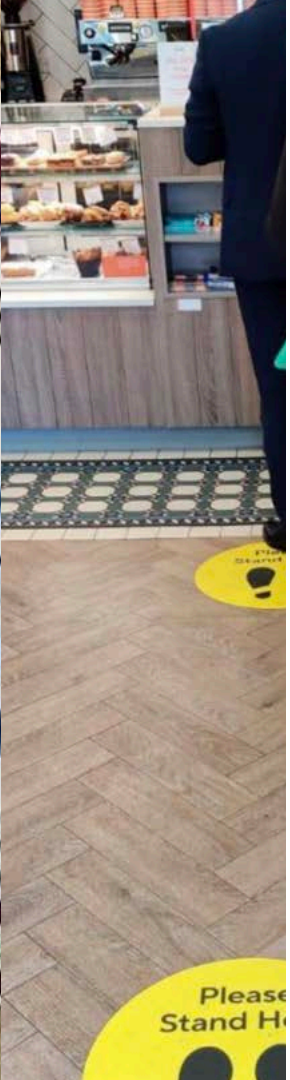
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Student Life & Leaders




Danielle McPherson
@_danielleeex

Thanks amazon for hiding my parcel



So I ordered a toothbrush...





JESUS IS
GREATER

C'MON, CHURCH! Leaving Passive for Passionate!

Hebrews 5:11–6:8

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“C’mon, Church! You’re sluggish!”

Hebrews 5:11

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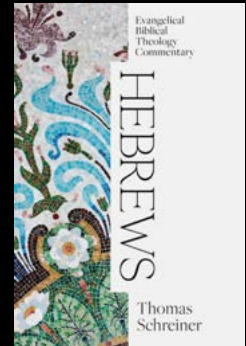
“C’mon, Church! It’s time to grow up!”

Hebrews 5:12-14

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What worries the writer about the spiritual infancy of the readers is the danger of slipping into apostasy. He doesn't contemplate the possibility of drinking spiritual milk for years and years and still obtaining eternal life. It is urgent, rather, to leave spiritual infancy behind, for one is either drawing nearer to God or falling away from him. Their spiritual slackness is a matter of greatest concern to the author.

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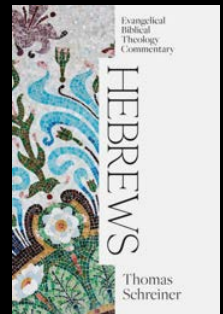
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“C’mon, Church! Be careful!”

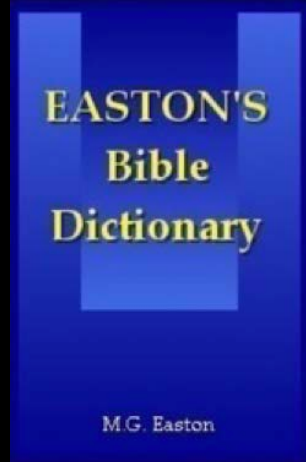
Hebrews 6:4-6

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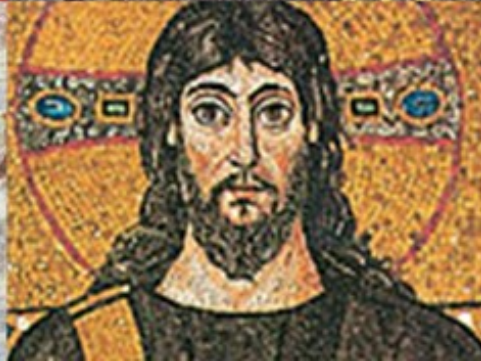
M. G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).



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Hebrews 6:9

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