



¹¹ Concerning which we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an babe. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of their mature state have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴ For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and *then* have fallen away, to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

⁷ For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; ⁸ but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and its end is for burning.

(Hebrews 5:11-6:8)

Digression (Hebrews 5:11- 6:20)

- the author aims to awaken his readers from their spiritual regression (“sluggish”) and direct them to the path of persevering faith
- he warns them about the dangerous condition of spiritual apostasy – the point of no recovery

The Danger of Apostasy

1. Who is being described?

- the “almost” Christian or a true Christian?
 - a description of Christians that emphasizes the comprehensive nature of the spiritual benefits received from God
 - partaking of the Holy Spirit is the clearest mark of a believer in the NT

The Danger of Apostasy

2. What is being described?

- the irrevocable consequences for believers *if* they were to fall away by rejecting Christ
- the consequences are ultimately the eternal judgment of God (cf. 10:26-31)

The Danger of Apostasy

3. Why is renewal to repentance impossible?

- in spite of all these benefits they have made a deliberate choice to repudiate Christ
- having definitively rejected God's only and all-sufficient provision in Christ, there is no other hope of salvation

The Danger of Apostasy

4. What is the author's purpose?

- not to undermine the assurance of believers by questioning the reality of their salvation
- to warn "sluggish" believers of the real dangers of apostasy *as a means* of perseverance and pressing on to maturity