
The Tragedy of Rejecting Full Revelation

Part 1

Hebrews 5:10-14

“Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

INTRODUCTION:

- **The Introduction of Melchisedec**
 - **The Last time we were here Paul introduced the subject of Melchisedec**
 - **Melchisedec was an OT priest that existed before the AARONIC PRIESTHOOD**
 - **Paul was making the argument that Jesus fit the role of GREAT HIGH PRIEST—because He after the order of Melchisedec**

- **Paul makes the point that he would like to continue to discuss the person of Melchisedec with his readers—but he is halted in his tracks to make yet another plea for them to get right with God**
- **Paul’s Readers**
 - **Paul is writing to three different groups of Jews**
 - **Those who are saved, yet reluctant to move forward in their faith**
 - **Those who are not saved, but are intellectually convinced of the realities of Christ**
 - **Those who are not saved, that are completely ignorant of the person of Christ**
 - **At this point in the text Paul is referring to the second group—that has continually heard the truth about Christ—and yet has not embraced Christ for salvation**
 - **They have become Christ rejecters**
 - **Not because they openly hate Christ**
 - **But because they openly love themselves**
 - **They are interested in saving their lives—rather than losing them for Christ and the Gospel**

- Paul, in this passage, gives them a warning about their unbelief
 - He warns them that they are on very dangerous ground—to continue in unbelief
 - And he will point out to them some of the consequences that ARE ALREADY HAPPENING to them because of their continued unbelief
 - And if they don't do anything about it—they will go beyond the POINT OF NO RETURN

CIT: What Happens When a Person Rejects the Revelation of Christ?

I. It Gets Harder to Hear (vs. 10-11)—“Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.”

A. Paul Desires to Further Teach the People About Melchisedec

1. To teach them the truths of how Melchisedec fits the role of the Messiah

B. Paul's Reluctance to Continue to Teach Them on This Subject

1. The Reason is **Not** that He doesn't have any More Information to Teach on That Subject

“Of whom we have *many things to say*”

a. After all, Paul was a long-winded preacher

- i. When Paul was passing through Ephesus he stopped to preach and teach them from the Word of God
- ii. It says that he preached so long (midnight) that people started falling asleep—and falling out of windows

b. As we will see in chapter 7, Paul has a great deal of information that he will continue to teach them about—when it comes to the character of Melchisedec

2. But Paul has a reluctance to teach them—because they won't hear

a. The things that Paul has to teach are “*hard to be uttered*”

- i. Not because they are particularly difficult (as we will see)
- ii. Or that these Hebrews are not smart enough to understand
- iii. But because their ears are not ready to receive it

- Their heart is not ready to receive it

b. Their continued rejection of Christ—has dulled their hearing

- i. They have no more desire to hear these truths—because they have no more interest in the person of Christ
- ii. These Hebrews—that have not yet believed—are in this state of unbelief **by choice**

- It's not as though they aren't convinced
- It's that they don't want to commit themselves to Christ
- Jesus spoke of these type of people

Matthew 13:13-16—“*they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 for this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*”

iii. It's not a helpless ignorance

iv. It's a willful ignorance

C. Continued Unbelief Will ALWAYS Lead to Further Rejection of the Truth

ILLUSTRATION:

I've watched people come to church with an attitude that showed they wanted to hear the Word of God, and have God change their life. But because the neglect to obey the Word of God was prevalent in their lives, they just became harder and harder to the truth. That hardness of heart eventually would lead them to full rejection of the truth.

Sometimes when I'm preaching in the church, I can tell that some in the service aren't open at all to the truth. They may have at one time been open, but now their ears are closed to the truth, and they are just enduring it.

It happens all the time!

1. Paul is reluctant to continue to teach them—because of their dullness of hearing
2. So he resorts to warning them
 - a. That if they continue down this path—it will only get harder for them to hear

NOTE: If you are one like this...to hear more of the truth will only condemn you further, because you will become that much more accountable for it.

If you haven't truly believed, if you haven't truly been saved, now is the time!

II. It Gets Harder to Understand (vs. 12)—“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God”

NOTE: This is where God gets involved.

A. The Jews Access to the Scriptures

1. The Jewish have had more access to the Word of God than any group of people in the world

Romans 3:1-2—“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, **because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.**”

- a. They were given the privilege of being the people responsible to handle the Word of God
 - i. They had Moses, Elijah, David, Solomon, Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, etc.
 - ii. All prophets, sent to them, to unveil the Scriptures to them

- iii. They were greatly privileged by God

Romans 9:4-5—“to whom pertaineth the **adoption**, and the **glory**, and the **covenants**, and the giving of the **law**, and the **service of God**, and the **promises**; 5 whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh **Christ came**, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

- b. The sad thing, is that for most of the history of Israel, the Jews rejected the prophets that were sent to them—they rejected the Word of God

- i. They followed after other gods
- ii. They continually desired to be like the other nations around them—rejecting their God Who had redeemed them and loved them
- iii. Every time God sent them a prophet to point them back to Himself, they rejected them

Nehemiah 9: 26—“Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.”

- iv. Their rejection of God and His Word was so much—that finally God sent them into a judgment—

that would literally purge out the wickedness of the nation

- And for a short period of time it did purge the nation
- Israel would eventually no longer serve foreign gods

c. Though Israel would cease from following after false idols—their rejection of the Word of God would revive

- i. Somewhere, in the silent years, when God did not send any prophets, Israel became very conceited and self-righteous
- ii. They had begun to view themselves as holy—without the need for repentance and righteousness from God

Romans 10:2-3—“*For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God*”

- iii. At the time Christ came on the scene—He began to call them to repentance—to call them back to the Word of God—and yet they rejected Him

- Calling Him Beelzebub
- That He was doing all these works in the power of the devil

Matthew 23:29-33—“*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 and say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. 33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*”

- Ultimately, they had Him killed

B. How the Jews Looked at Themselves

1. The Jews Looked Upon Themselves as a Holy People

Exodus 19:5-6—“*a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.*”

2. They looked at Themselves as Being Called to be Administrators of the Word of God

Romans 2:17-20—“Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, 18 and knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; 19 and art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.”

NOTE: That’s exactly what they were supposed to be. God entrusted them with His word, not only for their sakes, but for the World’s. They were to be the light to the nations, calling people to God and His Messiah.

a. So they prided themselves in their teaching

- i.** Jewish-born people
- ii.** Meeting every Sabbath day in the synagogues—teaching the people the Law of God
- iii.** Also they observed the different Jewish holidays—and taught the people
- iv.** BUT THEY CORRUPTED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY—they incorporating their own traditions over the Law of God

- Making the Law of God of none-effect (Mark 7:13)

- Laying burdens on the people that were impossible to keep

Matthew 23:4—“*For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*”

- Their responsibility to teach their own had been so corrupted—that they had begun to abuse their people
 - Stealing from them
 - Taking advantage of their weakness
 - Promoting themselves above others

NOTE: They not only did this with their own people, but they did it to the world around them.

b. To the Ignorant world

- i.** Converting pagans into Jews
 - ii.** Making them converts of their self-righteous religion
- Really, instead of turning people to the true God, they turned them away from God completely

- Making it impossible for them to be saved
- Making them full rejecters of the Messiah

iii. Jesus rebuked them for this wickedness

Matthew 23:15—“*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.*”

NOTE: The average Jew looked at himself as a teacher, though the average Jew had rejected God and the Messiah, through His self-righteous religion.

But if He got right—it would open the door for Him to be what He was called to be—a teacher, an instructor, to the ignorant, about Who God is and How you can get right with Him.

C. What Their Hardness of Heart Had

Produced—“*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God*”

1. Their Opportunity to Believe

a. The Continued Exposure to the Gospel

Hebrews 2:3-4—“*how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*

i. From Great Men

- People connected to the Apostles
- Even Paul, himself

ii. With Great Miracles

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

b. They’ve sat on the edge—and have not yet responded to the Gospel

i. They have allowed fear to keep them from fully embracing the Lord Jesus Christ

- Fear of persecution
- Fear of rejection from their own people
- Fear of the unknown

ii. A continued love for their religion

iii. They have been intellectually persuaded, yet have done nothing in regards to Christ

c. They were still lost, and were still condemned before God—because they have not truly believed in Christ

2. Their Digression From Their Responsibility

a. What they were supposed to be

- i. As Jews, they were called to be teachers to the world
- ii. But because they were lost—that responsibility had been stripped from them

b. What the Gospel was supposed to do

- i. To save them
- ii. To make them what they were supposed to be—teachers of the Word of God—“*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers*”

Jeremiah 31:31-34—“*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: 33 but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall*

be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

iii. Faith in the Gospel—would produce a heart that knows the truth (not having to be taught it all over again) and loves the truth

- And becomes a teacher of the Truth to those who don’t yet know

iv. But they’ve wasted the time that has been given to them by God

- The time to get right with God
- The time to truly believe
- The time to be saved
- The time to be made into teachers of the Truth

c. Where their unbelief has led them to—“*ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God*”

THEY HAVE REGRESSED

THEY HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH

THEY HAVE GONE TO THE EXACT OPPOSITE

**INSTEAD OF BEING PEOPLE WHO TEACH THE
WORLD THE WORD OF GOD—THEY ARE THE
ONES NEEDING TO BE TAUGHT**

**i. They need to be taught the First
Principles of the Oracles of God**

- It means the beginning blocks of the Scripture
- The Elementary teachings of the Scripture
- The Picture Books

QUESTION: What is the Elementary Teachings of the Scripture?

- In this case, Paul is referring to the OT
- The OT was given as an elementary book for children to teach them
 - about God,
 - about the Messiah,
 - about sin,
 - about how to get right with God
- Its pictures were all throughout the OT
 - Adam and Eve’s sin—that thrust them out of the garden

- Sin removes man from God’s presence
- The sacrificial system in the Law
 - Sin must be atoned through the death of another
- The Priesthood
 - Man needs one who can intercede for them on the behalf of God
- The 10 Commandments
 - Pointing us to the Holiness of God
 - Sin can’t be taken lightly
- The prophets
 - Showing the importance of repentance from Sin
 - The only way God will accept a sacrifice from us—is from one who is broken before God

Galatians 3:24—“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you **again** which be the first principles of the oracles of God”

ii. An ignorance of the Word of God is developed when we harden our heart to it

- Paul tells them that they have to be taught all over **again**
- They have to go back to the elementary books to learn what the Scriptures are really saying
- Paul will say that they are no more than babies having to start all over again

D. The Warning to Unbelievers

1. If you have been so exposed to the truth—and have continued to reject it—**YOU WILL LOSE IT TO IGNORANCE**

- a.** What once opened your eyes—will begin to close them
- b.** God is very patient with us—but He will not always strive with man

- i.** He will not always work on your heart to be saved
- ii.** There will come a point that He will stop working on your heart to be saved to where it will become **an impossibility to be saved**

iii. That even the very basic truths of Scriptures will become foreign to your heart

c. At this point—these Hebrews—who have continually rejected the truth—have become babes to the truth

- i.** Ignorant of their own condition before God
- ii.** Ignorant of the way of salvation

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus told a parable to the multitudes of a man who went out to sow seed in the field. Some fell on the hard ground and the birds took it away. Some fell on stony ground and the seed began to spring up, but because of rocks in the ground it was not able to draw water with its roots and died. Some fell among thorny ground and was choked out by the weeds. And some fell on good ground and produced fruit.

The disciples expected Jesus to explain the meaning of the parable to the people. But he refused.

Listen to His answer why...

“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.”

A person who continues to reject the truth, God will stop giving truth to them.

And the truth that has already been given to them—**God will take away.**

- That’s what Paul is saying to them
- They have rejected the truth so much that the truth they had once been enlightened with has been stripped from their hearts
- And they are as Paul will later say—getting to the point that they will **completely fall away—and never be able to be renewed to repentance**

III. It Gets Harder to Believe (vs. 12a-14)—“*and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*”

A. Where They Were

1. Though they were unbelievers—they had become enlightened to the truths of the Word of God concerning Jesus Christ
 - a. Through the preaching of the Word of God (by the apostolic witness)
 - b. Experiencing the miraculous signs of the Holy Ghost—to confirm the message

They “[had been] *enlightened*, [they had] *tasted of the heavenly gift*, [they had been] *made partakers of the Holy*

Ghost, and [they had] tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come”

2. They were made aware of things that they had never been exposed to before
 - a. What they were getting was the “**meat**” of the Word
 - b. The complete revelation of Christ

NOTE: Paul is NOT using the terms “meat” and “milk” to refer to the different levels of Bible study that people get.

As some have said, the preacher who is real shallow in his preaching is only giving the people the “milk” of the Word. And a preacher that is real deep in the Word is giving his people the “meat.”

That’s not at all what Paul is saying. He is saying that because they have hardened their hearts so long to the “meat” (complete revelation of Jesus Christ) they have fallen away from being able to handle it any more. All they can handle is the “milk.”

B. What They Have Become

1. Paul says, because of their continued unbelief—they have “*become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat*”
 - a. They have become babies

- b. They have regressed in their understanding of the full revelation of Christ
- c. Their dullness of hearing has aided them in their further ignorance of the truth

2. The only thing that could help them—is the milk of the Scriptures (first principles of the oracles of God)—not the meat

- a. They have declined so much in their understanding—that the basics are all they can understand
 - i. The picture books
 - ii. The elementary books
 - iii. They need someone to teach them again

EXAMPLE: Ball, Fish, Father, etc.

- b. They couldn't even handle the fullness of the message of Christ (**the meat**)
 - i. To try to lead them to Christ—with the **meat (the fullness of the message)**—would have been incredibly difficult for them to receive—even IMPOSSIBLE
 - ii. These Hebrews, because they had held so tightly to the Old

Covenant—rejecting Christ Himself—**were in need to be taught again, what the Old Covenant was all about**

c. All those who can only handle the milk—are unskillful in the Word of Righteousness

- i. That means that they have never come to the place of righteousness
- ii. They have become so immature in their understanding of the person of Christ—that they've never applied it for themselves

- They have never come to the place of salvation
- They are far from being in a place of spiritual discernment (**understanding how a person can be right with God**)
- Discerning the difference between picture and shadow

C. The Difficulty to Believe

1. Paul is saying—the more a person chooses not to believe—the **harder it becomes to believe**

- a. They couldn't believe even if it was clearly laid out before them
- b. That's how far they had fallen

2. If you are not saved—and you continue in unbelief—it just gets harder to believe

Hebrews 6:4-6—“*For it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 if they shall fall away, to **RENEW** them again unto repentance”*”

CONCLUSION:

ILLUSTRATION: