

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 30, 2014

Pressing on to Maturity
Hebrews 6:1-3

Christ's priesthood is superior to all other priesthoods (Hebrews 4:14-10:18).

The author of Hebrews in Hebrews 4:14-16 focused his readers on Christ's heavenly high priestly ministry.

After having focused his reader's attention on Christ's heavenly high priestly ministry, the author then addressed Christ's appointment as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:1-28).

The author in Hebrews 5:1-10 began with a simple introduction.

The author, after having introduced the Son's divine appointment to the order of Melchizedek, then took a strategic detour in order to warn his readers in Hebrews 5:11-6:20.

The author began this warning section with an exhortation (Hebrews 5:11-6:3).

The author, in preparing the way for his exhortation in Hebrews 6:1, began with a negative assessment of his reader's spiritual maturity.

The author began his negative assessment of his reader's spiritual maturity by stating their problem in Hebrews 5:11-12.

After the author stated the problem for his readers, he then graphically illustrated the problem for his readers (Hebrews 5:12-13).

After the author stated and illustrated the problem for his readers, he then provided them the cure (Hebrews 5:14).

The author, after preparing the way for his exhortation, then exhorted his readers to press on to maturity (Hebrews 6:1-3).

The word translated "press on" (PHEROMETHA) is passive, implying that it will be God who will move both the author and his readers forward to maturity as they, in obedience, pursue it.

The author, at the end of Hebrews 6:1 through Hebrews 6:2, listed six different teachings or practices rooted within Judaism that were used as a foundation to build Christian truth.

“Repentance from dead works” and “faith toward God,” which can be found in the Old Testament, were probably used to sum up the initial step of Christian commitment.

“Washings” and “laying on of hands,” which can also be found in the Old Testament, were probably used to communicate the results of our initial step of Christian commitment.

“The resurrection of the dead” and “eternal judgment,” which can also be found in the Old Testament, probably provided the opportunity to introduce Christ’s role in end-time matters.

The author’s statement of resolve in Hebrews 6:3 expressed the author’s confidence in his readers, which he will reiterate in Hebrews 6:9-10.

May God give us the grace to build on what we already know of Christ so that, as we pursue maturity, we may be able to walk the same path of suffering, obedience, and perseverance that He walked.