

ENDURE
Studies on Hebrews
Study 5– 5:11-6:20
'Warnings against apostasy'

Read Heb 5:11-6:12

1. Discuss briefly what you think the passage is about and identify key ideas or words.

2. What two types of Christians are contrasted in verses 5:11-14 and what are their characteristics?

3. How do the mature gain powers of discernment?

4. List the examples the writer gives of the elementary or foundational doctrines?

5. What does it mean to leave these elementary doctrines and go on to maturity? Are there any clues from other verses in this passage? See 6:9-12

6. What is at the heart of the warning in v4-6

It's very hard to reconcile on one hand the many passages of scripture which promise Christ's unfailing

commitment to the people of God (see John 6:37ff) and the real possibility of falling from a relationship with God. Passages like this do not try to work out this theological tension, but the discerning Christian will notice the purpose statements in the following verses of 6:7-11 to give some clarification.

7. Read 6:7-11 and identify the two types of land in this analogy.

8. What do each types of land stand for and how might this help to identify the recipients of this warning?

Although the rain falls impartially from the providence of God, the fruit of each land is very different. One produces a useful crop and another bears thorns and thistles.

9. What is the encouragement in verses 6:9-12 about?

10. What do these verses tell us about Christians who are on the right track?

11. One scholar suggests that Christians who hear this warning apply it to themselves and change, whereas non-Christians in a congregation do not recognize that the warning is about them and will not be impacted or changed by it. What do you think of this?

Spend some time thinking through issues and situations which take us away from Christ and the assurance we have in him. How might the thorns and thistles be tempting us to loose heart in our race to have that full assurance of hope until the end?

Prayer Points:
