

- Tim Robertson ~ 3/7/2011

11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**.

⇒ What had happened to the members of the original audience for the book of Hebrews? (v. 11)

⇒ What does the phrase “*dull of hearing*” mean? What are symptoms of this condition? *Hint: See Romans 1:18-32. Also Ps.95:76.*

- The problem was not that of a dull teacher, but dull hearers!

- “**dull of hearing**” (νωθρός) = slothful, slow, sluggish, indolent, dull, languid. Used only here and **6:12**, but also in LXX in **Prov.22:13; 26:13**. It refers to a condition of spiritual apathy and laziness that prevents spiritual development. Unable to listen to the Word, receive it, then act on it.

- First, “**drifting**” [*neglecting*] (**2:1-4**); then “**hardening**” [*doubting*] (**3:7-4:13**); now “**dullness**.” Opposite in **1Thess.2:13**

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**.

⇒ Define/describe the analogies of “*milk*” and “*solid food*.” (vv. 12-14) Put into your own words, the difference between the “*milk*” and “*solid food*” (“*meat*”) of God’s Word.

- Milk is predigested food specially suited for babies.

- “*Milk*” of the Word refers to what Jesus Christ did on earth (e.g., birth, life, teaching, death, burial, resurrection).

- “*Meat*” of the Word refers to what Jesus Christ is now doing in heaven.

⇒ Are vv.12-14 contrasting spiritually immature Jews with mature followers of Jesus?

- “**elementary principles**” = ABC’s

- We begin the Christian life on the basis of His finished work on earth. We grow in the Christian life on the basis of His unfinished work in heaven. Cf., **Heb.13:20-21**

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- A baby will put anything into its mouth ... an immature believer will listen to any preacher on the radio or TV and not be able to identify whether or not he is true to the Scripture. Cf., **Acts 17:11**

- **1 Timothy 4:6-9**