

## **May 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 5:11-14**

**Topic: Milk and Solid Food**

The recipients of this letter seem to have refused mature in their faith. They were still infants (1 Cor. 3:1-2) they have not fully learned the elementary truths of God's word. Just as we have many people today in our churches, who have been there from the foundation laying of the church for over 10 or 20 years but have remain the same like infant. God's word is both made up of Milk and solid food ( Matt. 4:4) Milk for new believers (1Peter 2:2) solid food is for matured believers.

These Hebrew have been living in a spiritual sense on Milk alone. Having grown a little in faith, they have taken the idea of drinking milk more easily like a baby. In order to grow, we need solid food; this involves teaching about righteousness (Matthew 5:10, 2 Timothy 3:12). Solid food involves difficult and deep teaching about Christ, being ready to suffer, ability to distinguish between good and evil, ability to see sin in our lives and good in Jesus' life, ability to follow Jesus righteousness and how to follow it. Ability to see our former way of life as unclean- desperately seeking way and means to know Christ more and more eating the word of God everyday without been forced to do so. See yourself as not there yet despite so much involvement in the church activities, personal prayers, fasting and devotion to please your father and Saviour Jesus. That deep desire to see that going to Church on Sunday is not enough, attending Bible study without taking it causal, prayer meetings etc. That desire to seek deeper knowledge of Christ's suffering for man's salvation. Reading and studying beyond the Bible put you on the road to solid food. He or she who does not fellowship does not have access to sharing, nor hearing the word of God. For Iron sharpens Iron. Lack of attending Bible studies deprived you from deeper knowledge of God. Prayer meeting opens your heart to intercede on behalf of many and many more Brothers!

**Lesson:** It is a big mistake to be contended with drinking milk, it will lead to stunted growth in Christ. Desire for solid food and have ability to spread the word, it is part of our responsibility Brethren.

**Prayer:** Dear God in heaven, I plead for you to grant me the desire to hunger for your word so that I will grow into adulthood to reach you as my head in Jesus Name.

## **May 11<sup>th</sup> Monday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 6:1-6**

**Topic: Warning Against Falling Away**

We cannot advance in faith if we continue with easy Christian life which is taking milk. And so the author introduces solid food to hem. In Christian life we either go forward or backward, there is no standing still. We cannot remain in the same spiritual state for long, we are like a tree in the race we either grow up or die. I do not know where you are? Once we have laid the foundation of our Christian faith; we don't need to lay it again and again. We can see that they are two aspects of this:

1. REPENTANCE from acts that leads to death
2. FAITH IN GOD. These two things are the first two steps in our Christian life (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21) we do not need to be taught these over and over

The acts that lead to death are our sins, sin results in death, spiritual death (Rom. 6:21, 23). Repentance does not mean only asking for forgiveness for these acts, it also means to turn from these acts, to leave them completely, do we understand?

Faith in God is necessary for Salvation which means faith in Christ Jesus through whom we receive our Salvation (Hebrew. 5:9). In addition to the two foundations we have to receive instructions in these matters. The four additional parts to the foundation of faith are:

1. Baptism: if you repent truly you have to go to Baptism class there you get the basis from the church.
2. After Baptism you receive the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. The resurrection of the dead; you have known what it means in Christ.
4. Eternal judgment; what does it mean to be judged?

Having gotten good foundation; we go ahead to build through God permission and through His grace. Whenever we have solid foundation and trusted the heavenly blessing of Christ, the goodness of God and powers of the coming age and yet go back, it became is a dangerous development. True Christian never go back, they never abandon their faith, and they do not fall away. But if it happens their hope is slim or no hope. Fall away refers to rejecting God. You are a Christians but you turn to Islam or ATR you are crucifying Christ the second time which means you have lost the mind of repentance, you are out of Touch with God. It means rejecting Salvation and accepting death. What a big lost.

**Lesson:** Salvation is found no where else read Hebrews 10:26-27, 2 Peter 2:20-21. Christ is offering you hope; do not turn your back on Him. For death awaits you. If you turn away!

**Prayer:** My Lord Jesus help me not to turn my back on you. Amen.

**May 12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 6:7-12**

**Topic: Warning against falling away 2**

Another question we have to struggle with is how can we know a true Christian and a false one? From the beginning it seems impossible to tell, but considering the parable of the Sower we can know and learn that it is possible. The writer of Hebrews is saying that, it is necessary to help one another. It is always through trials and temptation that you can notice change or drift in people. Before this, we should never question people's faith but rather encouraged them to go forward during their time of trial and temptation. False Christians normally fall by the side but the true Christians will stand firm and endure to the end. We should also know that some Christians fall but never give up, they fall into sin but their minds and consciousness rebuke them to repentance, such people have hope. It is terrible for Christians to always remain in sin with procrastination of repentance. If they refused forgoing their sin, there is a possibility of staying permanently in it and refuse to turn to Christ; we cannot be proud that we are above falling away. Let's remember Paul's word in (1 Corinthians 10:12) "if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall." It is possible for us to deny God's grace and reject it. We have to live and constantly seek the grace of God to survive the race to the end.

As Christians we need to distinguish falsehood by their fruit (Matt. 7:17-20). These fruits are principally the fruits of the Holy Spirit as seen in Galatians 5:22-23. Christ chooses us to bear fruits, fruits that will last. John 15:16 they did not choose to bear thistles and thorns. Many think bearing fruits is through preaching, prophecies, teaching and miracles but even Satan do such (Mark 13:22). The author expresses these fruits in the area of showing love for God and his people and faithfulness. The Hebrews showed such love through helping people (believers). When we show act of love, it is to God (Matt. 25: 34-40). If we claim to love God, but hate his people, we are expressing who we are in the sight of God. We sometimes claim that we are on fire for God but we can only show it among our friends, our people, our loved ones, but a little love to a tribe next to us exposes who we are, the enemy of God. The writer wanted them to show such love and faithfulness at all levels and as well do it with some diligence to the very end with and place hope in God, hope of receiving their inheritance. We have to evaluate our Christianity everyday in light of this warning less we fall.

**Lesson:** We must continue to work our Salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)

**Prayer:** The fruits of the spirit look easy but making it to work is hard. Help me dear Lord to have the grace to put them unto practice in Jesus Name.

**May 13th Wednesday 2015**

**Text: Hebrew 6:13-20**

**Topic: Certainty of God's Promise**

God is not like man, when He promises, he make it happen. God promised Abraham to make him a great Nation and He will bless him (Gen.12:2) at that time he was seventy five years (75) with no child. Without children how can he be the father of great nations? Abraham had to wait another twenty five years before getting a son. Abraham was hundred years before the promise was fulfilled by having Isaac. He waited patiently to have the promise. If God has promised you something no time is too much to wait for; certainly it will come to pass, keep hoping.

Then as if it is not enough, God again tested Abraham's faith to give back the only son through sacrifice. As if the time wasted is a waste, but Abraham agreed and planned the sacrifice. But on seeing his sincerity in faith he was given an alternative.

The author quoted this to affirm God's stand on promises when He makes He certainly will confirm it with an oath (v.17) which makes it more certain and clear. We are today the spiritual heirs of Abraham through faith (Galatians 3:7, 9) therefore the promise that God gave to Abraham is now given to us. We who believe in Christ have been made God's people, God's family, we are blessed people, whatever we are doing God's blessing is on it but our full inheritance is in heaven. What we are getting here is the shadow of what is awaiting us. This is why we who have fled from evil (Satan) can take hold of the hope offered to us that even if we are poor, barren, homeless or persecuted we have the hope that we are going to receive great inheritance in heaven. This hope is confirmed by God's promise and oath which makes it unchangeable what a great encouragement.

In the midst of trials, troubles and persecution, even in death we have hope that what we are losing are temporary things, we are going to receive much more in heaven if our hope is firm and sure in God. It is like an anchor. Our hope is to enter the inner sanctuary the dwelling place of God with our hope fixed on Jesus who did it all for us. Whatever the world has for us does not matter, what matter most is that He has made a promise which no terror can break.

**Lesson:** If God has made promise to you don't give up no matter how long. Have hope for God's promise is certain. But then even if it does not happen be assured that what God has kept for you in heaven is far more than those earthly fading blessings.

**Prayer:** My Lord it is not easy to wait on your promise. It took Abraham 100 years help me to have hope and grace to wait on you in Jesus Name.

### **May 14th Thursday 2015**

**Text: Hebrew 7:1-10**

**Topic: Melchizedek the high priest**

Beside this letter to the Hebrews, the only other place Melchizedek is mentioned in the Bible are in Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110:4. The writer bases his description of Melchizedek on Genesis 14, we have no record in the Bible on his Father or Mother nor his birth or death. Hebrew states Melchizedek was never born and never died. Like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Jesus has no beginning or end.

Melchizedek was greater than Abraham, otherwise, Abraham would not have given him a tenth part of the plunder from battle. Levi was one of the sons of Jacob grandson of Abraham. All Jewish priests descended from Levi including Aaron. But Melchizedek the priest of the God Most High was not from Levi or Abraham. Abraham himself gave him tenth of his plunder gained then receives blessings. Therefore Melchizedek is greater than Jewish priest from Abraham. All priest died, they were ordinary men but Melchizedek never died, he is declared to be living.

**Lesson:** Human priest and activities remain ordinary while divine priest and activity remains eternal and living. We cannot claim to be God no matter how highly placed and anointed we are. We have our limitation and we have to admit them.

**Prayers:** Lord Jesus it is only through you that we can understand divine providence for our life, help us.

### **May 15<sup>th</sup> Friday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 7:11-28**

**Topic: Jesus Like Melchizedek**

At this point the passage gives us the overall history of the Jewish from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob and his twelve sons then to Levi his third son from the priesthood. The passage presents the limitation of the levitical priesthood, they could not bring about the perfection of the Jewish people, that is, they could not make men righteous nor bring Salvation. If that was possible through them there was no need for another priest, Jesus Christ to come, this is why Christ has to come from the order of Melchizedek from

different tribe, and based on different regulations. Priest dies but Jesus lives on (Psalms 110:4) Jesus priesthood is based on outside regulations which are helpful. The coming of Christ set aside all the ceremonial part of the Jewish law (Matt. 5:17, 18; Col. 2:15-14). The Law could not make man righteous but condemns. The better hope is in Christ who can draw us near to God. Through faith we can receive Christ righteousness which will enable us to come to God's presence from Aaron to Jesus time. We had 83 high priests but all died but Jesus the high priest lives forever. Jesus always lives to interceded for us (Rom. 8:34) Jesus is our advocate, our lawyer before God. Because he is a high priest God listen to Him, He has made atonement for our sins (Heb. 2:17). He no longer condemns us. He is always ready to listens, answer and brings us into God's presence. He is able to complete all the requirements for our salvation. Who can be compared with Him? No one absolutely.

**Lesson:** Jesus is a high priest with a difference pure, blameless powerful and acceptable before God. Through him our salvation as people are sure and certain.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus I am privileged to have you as my Saviour. Accept me and listen to my prayers always

**May 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday 2015**

**Text: Hebrews 8:1-6**

**Topic: The High Priest of a New Covenant**

The Jewish ministered in the sanctuary made by men, but serves in the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, a tabernacle which is in heaven at the right hand of God. Jewish priesthood was of the world by that of Jesus of heaven. It is spiritual while Jewish is ceremonial.

Priests of the world are appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifice in order to come into the presence of God. The Jewish high priest had to present an offering to God. Jesus also needed to offer something to God and, He offered up His own body while Jewish priest ministered in a sanctuary made by men. Jesus ministered in heaven the real sanctuary pictured which of was given to Moses to design. Worldly people only see what is physical, but heavenly things exist in only spiritual minded people to believe and put confidence in. Earthly things are shadow of heavenly things. The Jewish priest could not change things; and they could not bring people before God. The old covenant was broken because they could not keep it. This is why Jesus has to bring the new Covenant and mediate between us and God. This agreement helps us because it is about Jesus, if you believe in Him; He has given you life and given you salvation (eternal life) (John 3:16) with Jesus God will put His laws in our heart and our minds, we will know God, He will forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit will dwell in us; what a privilege.

**Lesson:** God makes each believer in Christ a new creation, the old has gone (2 Cor. 5:17).

**Prayer:** O Lord Jesus removes my stony heart and give me a heart of flesh so that I can follow you.