

# ONE BIBLE, ONE STORY: THE EPISTLE to the HEBREWS

## Chapter 5:11-6:8

### Last Week's Main Points:

- As our high priest, Jesus offers atonement and opens the way for our relationship with God
- Jesus' perfect fulfillment of the high-priestly role is a source of great comfort for us

### Introduction: The Power of a Negative Example

- I. Milk and Solid Food (5:11-6:3)
  - A. The intellectual and cultural challenge of Christ's new revelation for these readers
  - B. A Good Scolding
  
- II. A Stern Warning (6:4-6)
  - A. Reading a modern question into an ancient text
  - B. Salvation: our perspective and God's perspective
  
- III. Table Group Discussion
  - A. What words and images does this passage use to describe the immature Christian (see especially 5:11, 13; 6:1, 8)? What about the mature Christian (5:14, 6:7)? How does this passage change or inform our understanding of Christian maturity?

- B. Many of us know people who have left the community of faith and are in danger of apostasy. How does this passage challenge your thinking about such people? How does it offer hope to them?
- C. Despite the scolding (5:11-14) and stern warning (6:4-6), this passage, like all of Hebrews, is full of pastoral love and concern. Where do you see evidence of these?

IV. **“You will know them by their fruit”** (6:7-8)

- A. "Fruit" imagery throughout the New Testament (Matt 6:15-23, John 15:1-17, Gal 5:22-23)
- B. "The one who perseveres to the end will be saved" (Matt 24:13)

"Oh, how great a consolation in this word! For he said 'near to being cursed,' not 'cursed'...Not only by this did he encourage them, but also by what follows. For he did not say 'which shall be burned,' but what? 'Its end is to be burned.' " John Chrysostom, *On the Epistle to the Hebrews*

**For Next Week:**

- Read and reflect upon Hebrews 6:9-20