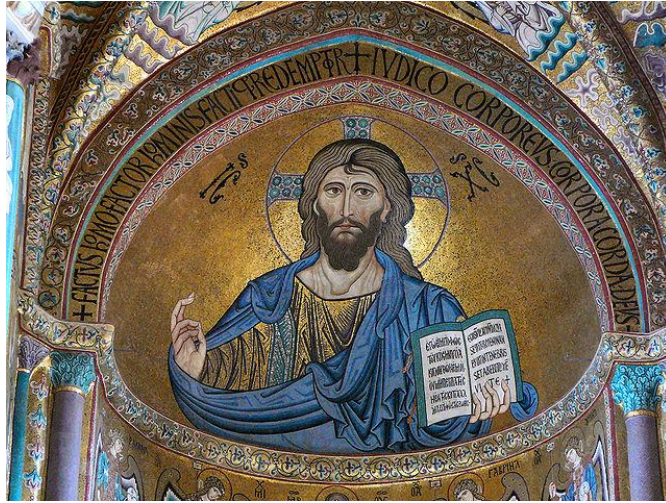


## Back To School

Heb 5:11-6:3

Bernard Bell



### Background

Labor Day weekend marks the traditional end of summer. But many students have been back to school for a while already. Some may have found that they had regressed over the summer, and had to get back in the groove of learning. We expect students to progress from learning the ABCs all the way to advanced topics. The Christian life is also a school in which we are expected to advance from infancy to maturity, from milk to solid food.

### Sermon Text: Heb 5:11-6:3 (NIV)

*5<sup>11</sup> We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

*6<sup>1</sup> Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What was the best thing you heard during the service this week?

### 2. Sunday questions

- a. Have you tended to see your faith as a one-time ticket to heaven or have you tended to see it as a journey of lifelong growth from milk to solid food? Explain.
- b. As a musician or an athlete constantly trains themselves physically to build muscle memory, how would you say you have trained yourself in spiritual and moral discernment? Looking forward, what kind of practices can you do to build spiritual muscles?
- c. Or, as Bernard said, "Training can come through circumstances of life." What circumstances in your life have trained you in obedience (ie. Jesus learned obedience through testing)?
- d. As we grow into maturity, Ephesians 4:11-16 (the Scripture reading) implies that we will discover gifts to do the work of growing and building up the body of Christ "in love." Do you know what your gifts are? If so, how are you using them? If not, where would you like to jump in and begin using them?
- e. Bernard ended with this prayer (Collect for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent):

*Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Make this your prayer this week.