

## **Introduction**

- A. Sleepers” in school and in the church.
  - B. Context
- I. Traditional way of interpreting this passage and its connection to the warning passage in 6:4–12
- A. The Traditional Interpretation of Maturity vs. Immaturity
    1. 5:11–Concerning this, we have much to say
    2. Needing to be taught vs. teachers (cf. 8:11)
    3. The basic principles of the oracles of God (v. 12) vs. word of righteousness (v. 13)
    4. Milk/infants vs. solid food/adults (vv. 12b–14)
    5. Leave the elementary doctrine of Christ (6:1)
    6. List of elementary teachings as especially Christian (6:1, 2).
  - B. Its connection to the warning passage in 6:4–12
  - C. The problem with the traditional interpretation
    1. If they are immature and incapable of hearing about Melchizedek, why does he go on to talk about it in Heb 7?
    2. Why, in 6:1, does he exhort them to “perfection” or “maturity,” by leaving the elementary teachings about Christ.
    3. The six doctrines in 6:1, 2 are not uniquely Christian
    4. Translating Greek words as “mature” and “maturity” is the only place in the whole book where this happens. Everywhere else, it is perfect.
- II. The Alternative Approach of Covenantal Dualism
- A. The Dualism of Old Covenant vs. New Covenant
    1. Hebrews is about old vs. new Covenant
    2. One of the most common words used to describe this is perfect vs. imperfect.
    3. Conclusions
  - B. Viewing the Passage Through a Different Paradigm
  - C. This Passage’s Connection to the Warning Passage (Heb 6:4–12)
- III. Application to Believers today
1. Take Care How You Hear the Word of God (5:11)
  2. Do the next thing, don’t be a bump on a log (5:12)
  3. Keep the righteousness of Christ central for salvation, sanctification, and glorification (5:13–14a)
  4. Be ever growing in your powers of discernment (5:14)
  5. Learning Endurance from the Shame of the Cross (Heb 12:1–2)