

Jesus is a BETTER REASON
Text: Hebrews 5:11 – 6:12

Jesus is a BETTER REASON to GROW UP

- 1) **Spiritual INFANTS don't UNDERSTAND and/or VALUE who Jesus is because...**
 - a) **They're LAZY/SLUGGISH about HEARING the Gospel:** Hebrews 5:11; Ephesians 4:11-13. See also: Heb. 3:13; Eph. 4:14-15
 - b) **They need to be taught BASIC TRUTHS of the Gospel AGAIN:** Hebrews 5:12a. See also: 1 Corinthians 3:1–2a
 - i) **REPENTANCE and FAITH:** Hebrews 6:1. See also: Heb. 9:14
 - ii) **BAPTISM and RITES of entry:** Heb. 6:2a. See: 9:9-10, 10:22
 - iii) **RESURRECTION and JUDGMENT:** Hebrews 6:2b
 - c) **They're UNSKILLED in applying God's Word to RIGHT THINKING and LIVING:** Hebrews 5:12b-13. See also: 1 Cor 3:2b–3
- 2) **Spiritual GROWN UPS...**
 - a) **START with spiritual milk IN ORDER to GROW UP to be like Jesus:** 1 Peter 2:2–3
 - b) **FEAST on God's WORD as "solid food":** Matthew 4:4
 - c) **PRACTICE spiritual discernment so they can distinguish between GOOD and EVIL:** Hebrews 5:14. See also: Genesis 3:4-5; 1 Kings 3:9-11; Romans 16:19
 - d) **INTEND to GROW UP:** Hebrews 6:1a, 3. See also: Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Jesus is a BETTER REASON to ENDURE

- 1) **Some will FALL AWAY (apostasize) from the Christian faith NEVER to return:** Hebrews 6:4b, 6b
- 2) **These APOSTATES have EVIDENCED a form of CHRISTIANITY without ever being truly BORN AGAIN. They have...**
 - a) **SEEN the TRUTH of Jesus:** Hebrews 6:4c
 - b) **EXPERIENCED God's MERCY, GRACE & BLESSINGS:** Hebrews 6:4d. See also: 1 Peter 2:3
 - c) **UNDERGONE the Holy Spirit's CONVICTION and TRUTH:** Hebrews 6:4e; John 16:8, 13b
 - d) **TASTED the LIVING WORD:** Hebrews 6:5ab. See also: Ps. 34:8
 - e) **ENCOUNTERED the Holy Spirit's POWER and WORKS:** Hebrews 6:5; Matthew 7:22–23

- 3) **Their LIVES do NOT bear ENDURING and GENUINE GOSPEL FRUIT:** Heb 6:7-8; Mk. 4:18–19. See: Matt. 13:28-30; Lk 13:6-9; Gal 5:19-21
- 4) **APOSTATES are those who...**
 - a) **PRESUME on God's Grace and have CONTEMPT for Jesus:** Hebrews 6:6acd
 - b) **BLASPHEME the work of the Holy Spirit in their LIFE:** Mark 3:28–29. See: 1 John 5:16–17; 2 Peter 2:20-21
 - c) **Have LEFT the grace of the CHURCH:** 1 Jn. 2:19. See: Heb 10:25
 - d) **Have EVIL, UNBELIEVING Hearts that reject GOD:** Heb. 3:12
- 5) **Genuine APOSTATES CAN'T be RESTORED to God's Grace:** Hebrews 6:4a, 6ab; Hebrews 12:17

Jesus is a BETTER REASON to HOPE: Hebrews 6:9

- 1) **Genuine BELIEVERS Bear Gospel FRUIT of LABOR, LOVE, & SERVICE:** Hebrews 6:10; Ephesians 2:8-10. See also: 1 Thess. 1:3, Gal. 5:22-24; Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim. 2:9-10, 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:21; Titus 2:7, 2:13-14, 3:1, 3:8, 3:14; James 2:14-26
- 2) **Genuine BELIEVERS PERSEVERE in their Gospel HOPE:** Hebrews 6:11; Colossians 1:21–23a; Mark 13:13. See also: Heb. 4:14, 10:23
- 3) **Genuine BELIEVERS IMITATE the ENDURINGLY FAITHFUL:** Hebrews 6:12. See also: 11:1-12:2; 13:7; Philippians 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:7, 9
- 4) **Genuine BELIEVERS INHERIT God's PROMISES because they are PRESERVED (kept) by God's Grace:** Philippians 1:6. See also: Matt. 24:24; John 6:37-40, 10:28-29; Rom. 8:29-30, 38-39; Eph. 4:30; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5; Jude 24-25

Gospel In Life Group Questions

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with this week?