

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

BEYOND MILK TO MEAT

Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity . . . “

The writer to the Hebrews in today’s devotion verse continues his encouragement to you to become a committed student of God’s word. In yesterday’s verses, you read where he wrote, “. . . anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant . . .” (Hebrews 5:13) A wise mother knows that just giving her child milk will not enable that infant to grow and physically mature in a healthy manner. Solid food needs to be added to the child’s diet as soon as its stomach is able to digest it. So, it is with a Christian’s need for more than the elementary teachings of God’s word.

As an example, a young child is taught the song, “Jesus loves me, this I know.” Think what they would know about Jesus if this was the only Christian song they ever learned. The writer therefore urges, “. . . move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ. . .” As yesterday’s devotion encouraged, this is done through daily, regular, listening to, reading, studying the Holy Scriptures. Jesus urges you to “. . . study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me. . .” In Hebrews 10:24-25 the writer encourages, “. . . let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together (worshipping), as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. . .”

The early Christians, Luke writes, “. . . devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” The early Christians devoted themselves to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10), “did good to all people, and especially to those who (were) of the household of the faith,” (Galatians 6:10) and took care of the poor (Galatians 2:10). James writes, “Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” (James 1:27) St. Paul urged those in the church at Ephesus, “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32) Remember, Jesus said, “. . . whatever you did for

one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Prayer: Move me, O Lord, to a faith that is alive, active, and growing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.
(LSB 691)