

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 34
Don't Be a Baby

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It is important for you to understand that people are still getting saved. Between Hebrews five and six, we have a pause in the doctrinal teaching of the book to make some practical applications, on how we should live our lives. It is always more pleasant to talk about the great things Jesus Christ has done for us than to read about what He expects us to do for Him in return, but it's important.

You know what made America great when it was great? It was not everyone looking out for their own interests, but people looking out for the interests of others, especially in the home.

We are going to move into this as a practical application; view this as serious instruction and a challenge - This is how my life can be, and what God wants it to be is more abundant.

Hebrews, 5:11-14 *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

We are told in chapter five that these early believers had not become everything that God could have made them because they just were not all that interested in hearing what God had to say. They were dull of hearing, and it limited and hindered them.

Then we read about milk and meat. By the time we get to Hebrews 13, we read about strange doctrines and curious doctrines. They are people who think the meat of the word is finding some weird, bizarre verse in the Bible and applying it to aliens, geology, or politics, thinking these are the deep things of God.

The Lord is very specific here about what differentiates a baby Christian who needs to be fed with milk from a mature Christian who can be safely fed the meat of the word. Look at Hebrews 5:13-14 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

We live in a generation of pathetic people who call themselves Christians. They go to something that resembles a Church but also resembles

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a coffee shop or bar where they go to be entertained and to socialize with the opposite sex. They are ashamed to call it a Church, so they are called Assemblies, Discovery Centers, or Community Fellowships. They are places where they can bring in the music of the world, the attire of the world, the morals of the world, and where the minister does not preach against adultery, fornication, drinking alcohol, or pornography. They have all kinds of beliefs that rally under "the banner of God is Love" and "He loves all of us." There they can be both religious and ungodly at the same time.

Baby Christians sing about how much they love Jesus while living in such a way that shows they actually despise what He has asked them to do. The Bible doesn't say that such conduct indicates that one is not saved but rather that one is a baby who must be fed milk and who has not matured or developed into a functioning, working, beneficial Christian. The baby Christian just cannot tell the difference between what is good and what is evil.

They can sing songs about the Lord, but in them there is no call to righteousness. They want to go to an assembly on a Sunday morning, but they don't want to be asked or challenged to be any better than what they are. In fact, should another Christian tell them that something is a sin? They may respond in an evasive-like manner, "Well I have peace about it."

Sadly, there are Christians who have been saved 10,15, 20 years, and are still incapable or unqualified to teach others how to live the Christian life because they haven't yet learned how to live it themselves. Our nation testifies in polling data that well over half the population of America testifies to being a Christian, and a large portion of them to being an evangelical Christian. Yet, think of your job, your school, your neighborhood and your family, or extended family. Where's the Christianity? Where's the evangelism? If half of America are evangelical Christians, then half the people should be telling others about Jesus Christ. If half the people are Christians, then half of them should at least be doing something resembling Christlikeness. Yet today, not only has our world opposed biblical righteousness, but most of our churches also oppose biblical righteousness.

The Bible says, in verse Hebrews 5:14 ***But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

Let's illustrate something that is unfortunate. If you walked into a public or a private building, and the atmosphere was filled with gardenias, roses, and perfumes, no one would have to tell you, "It smells so nice in here." Your senses would immediately indicate that to you. However, if you walked into the same building on a day when there were lavatory problems, no one would ask, "Are those flowers?" You would have sense enough to know that it really stinks and that something ought to be done about it. How is it that people can

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go to church and call themselves Christians and not have sense enough to know that adultery, fornication, lying, and consumption of alcohol are sin.

God says living with someone to whom you're not married, or marrying someone of your same gender, or drinking alcohol and cussing all day long is sin. God hates it. (Romans 1:18,29, Psalm 5:5)

In Hebrews, God is concerned that people who have trusted Christ as their Savior may turn their back on Christ and go back to the world because all they wanted from salvation was a ticket out of hell. They did not want to be delivered from their sins. This was a problem then, and it is a problem now.

When children leave the house to go to school, most mothers say, "Be a good boy." Or "Be a good girl. How does that help if there is no definition of good? How does that help if there is no example of good? The Lord does not just say be good; He gives you a book to define good and a Holy Spirit to help you live by it.

1 Peter 2:2-3 ***As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*** It is necessary to understand how to grow in the Lord after you have been saved by the Lord. Just like a newborn baby desires milk, new Christians should desire the sincere milk of the word.

Notice how the Bible defines what kind of milk we are to desire - "sincere milk". Milk that will help you grow strong into an adult.

Most churches nowadays serve milk, but it is not sincere milk; it is powdered milk, flavored water, or skim milk. Example: You're trying to live a clean life, yet you have been tempted by fornication and pornography. You attend a local assembly identified as a church and see girls in skin tight jeans and low cut tops dancing about on the platform, singing "He loves me, Jesus loves me, He loves me." That's going to stunt your growth. That's going to cripple your development. You go needing sincere milk, and you are getting watered down religious fluff designed to not offend you. This kind of church service is so focused on pleasing and not offending people, yet it is offensive to God.

Now look what the Bible says, "the sincere milk of the word." People make the effort on a Sunday morning to get up, get dressed, get in their car, go to church. They don't need to hear about politics, psychology, self-help, or the worth of the individual. They need to hear the word of God.

We wonder why some people live like they are animals with no respect for their own lives or others. They follow codes of ethic such as "Live for the moment" or "Do unto others before they do unto you" or "It was fun while it lasted." Yet the Bible says:

1 Peter 2:1-3 ***Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere***

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milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

God has instructed us as Christians to be different. You say, *"It is simple, just be the opposite of everybody else."* That is not doing what the Lord instructs us to do. He wants us to love others, not hold grudges against them. He wants us to desire God blesses them, and He desires all guile, hypocrisies and envies not be named once of among any of us.

(Ephesians 4:21-32; 5:1-6)

You can always tell when a person is a baby Christian because their desire is to read and learn the Book of Revelation. They think they will learn some great spiritual insight that no one else has ever seen and thus predict the Lord's return accurately. When the book of Revelation does not hold the secrets of God, it is His revelation. The deep things of God (or the meat of the word – so called) is defined in Hebrews 5:14 ***But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. simple to know good and evil.***

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 ***And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?***

If it is your desire to grow in the Lord to where God will show you His deep things, your first hurdle is yourself. Your carnality is holding you back. It is not things like getting drunk, being a dope addict, or robbing a bank. It is unresolved strife in your living room. It is unresolved conflict in your church auditorium. It's a lifelong inability to get along with anyone who doesn't think you're wonderful. Your Lord said, "How can you teach people how to live the Christian life when you have yet to understand what the Christian life really is?" The Christian life is that Christ laid down His life for us. He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation. Jesus Christ said, "Take my yoke upon you. My yoke is easy. My burden is light."

Your diploma for 4 years at Bible college and your knowledge of the rapture and the second coming are not going to help you encourage people to live the Christian life. Why? Because you are carnal, you're a baby. You say, "I really know the Bible." No, you don't. You may know theology, but you don't really know the Bible because you haven't got past the milk stage.

A real Christian sacrifices his life for others. Most of us were blessed to have a good mother. What did she do that was so important for us? She sacrificed herself daily. Husbands ought to sacrifice for their wives, and wives ought to sacrifice for their husbands. Servitude is the most fundamental truth of Christianity.

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Look at 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 *For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

What does the above verse have to do with the subject at hand? It's easy. Some people at Corinth came on the Sundays when Paul was preaching because they really liked Paul's preaching. Some people came on the Sundays when Apollos was preaching. But the purpose of all the preaching was so that each of them would be laboring for God like Paul and Apollos were laboring for God. Correct? So, in the context, if you like preaching, there is nothing wrong with that. You have your favorite preachers. That's okay, but if you're not practicing what they preach, you are a baby. You are still on the bottle. This means you expect everything to be done for you by somebody else, and if they don't, you're going to get upset. You might leave the church because it was not loving, or join a protest march somewhere because the government is not meeting your needs. Grow up. Be a man, be a woman. Don't just come to church to be entertained. There are things to do. The Lord told us that we are His ambassadors, (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are His kings and priests, (Revelation 1:6). It is our privilege to take His word to others (Romans 10:14), and He has commanded us to do just that (2 Timothy 4:2).

Do you know what God wants for His children? He wants them to grow up and start contributing a little bit; grow up and start doing something around the house. People are dying and going to hell daily, and most Christians do not even care, as long as their own needs are met to their satisfaction.

Our world today is infatuated with selfishness. This ought not to be for the Christian who wants to grow in the Lord beyond infancy.

In conclusion: What is the essential part of growing in the Lord? Here is your answer according to the Lord:

Luke 10:27 (KJV) *And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.*

Notes

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Name _____

Note: (*) indicates that you must include scripture with your answer to receive full credit, including the T/F.

1. Why should you never bring the world's entertainment and ideals into the Church?
2. What is the problem with today's Christians?
3. Why does a Christian need to grow?
4. What kind of milk does a baby Christian need? *
5. What is the meat of the word? *
6. How do you know when you are in a carnal church service?
7. Define Romans 8:7.
8. How can you tell the difference between spiritual music and carnal music?

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9. How can you recognize a spiritual Christian?
10. How can you recognize a carnal Christian?
11. Just because a person has been saved for 10-20 years, they may still be a baby Christian. Why?
12. According to Jesus, the greatest commandment is Matthew 22:36-39. Why? And how does it apply to this lesson? *
13. Don't be a baby. What is the key to growing up to be a mature Christian in the Lord?

True/false

- Being a carnal Christian is a testimony that you are not saved.
- God understands why I am a baby Christian.
- The meat of the word is found in the book of Revelation.
- A mature Christian is identified by their age and the number of degrees they have obtained.



Scripture memorization

Hebrews 5:14; 1 Peter 2:2-3; Romans 1:18

Look close at Romans 1:18 – this is a carnal Christian.

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?