

“Getting Your Foundation Right”

Heb 6:1-3

October 29, 2023

INTRO ... Education is a Big Deal!

“Formal schooling began to take shape around the 18th century. However, numerous education systems, such as religious, civil service, apprenticeship, and indigenous systems, have existed for thousands of years. These pre-existing systems focused on the enrichment of the self, community, and society as their primary purposes.” “Why Understanding the Historical Purposes of Modern Schooling Matters Today” ([Brookings.edu](https://www.brookings.edu) ...May 22, 2023)

...When it came to doing life—we all easily agreed and bought into the idea that Education was Key to Our Development ...Now K-12 is an absolute for all of us! ...We learn certain essential fundamentals that are intended to serve us the rest of our lives!

? - What kind of thought have you given to your discipleship curriculum?... What kind of “K-12” learning are you devoting your Spiritual Life to? ...How does “Kindergarten, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, & College” inform the way you approach being prepared to be a functional disciple?

Heb 6:1-3 *Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.*

Heb 5:12 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food...*

— So, which is it? — “Move On”—or—“Learn More Deeply”?

There Exists Elementary Doctrines of Christ!!

- “**Elementary**” (Gk. archē - a commencement, or (concretely) chief (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank): — beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule.
- **When it comes to relating to God (the Creator revealed in Scripture), there are some “Elementary School Truths” that inform and create boundaries for Everything Else!**

When it comes to Approaching God, Relating to God, and to Understanding Him and the Life He has Given Us to Live—the correct starting place is NOT us, but the Elemental Things that He Has Revealed!

- “repentance from dead works and faith toward God”
- “Washings and the laying on of hands”
- “The resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment”

...THESE reveal doctrines and truths that MUST accompany any construction of faith in the God of the Bible! THESE things being immovable and necessary to understand will inform any thoughts, hypotheses, and conclusions we make about the nature of God and how to relate to him.

[Heb 6:1] The six items that follow are part of the foundation of Christian instruction. Although the author chides his listeners for needing milk, he intends to give them solid food. He wishes to move them beyond the basics, and this involves building on the foundation, not rejecting it. So he lists these teachings and brings them to their attention. **Peter Obrien**, (Pillar New Testament Commentary)

“REPENTANCE & FAITH”

...Jesus (the great lover of mankind, like no other! The hero of the ostracized! The includer of the marginalized! The healer of the broken! THE compassionate One!! ...Begins His Ministry with THIS Word— “REPENT”

Mark 1:1-4 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

² *As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,*

³ *the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”*

⁴ *John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Mark 1:14-15 *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

...Mark’s Gospel Revelation—Begins HERE!

...**These are not mere religious buzzwords** (“church”, “minister”, “confession”, “faith”, etc.)—**They Are SUBSTANTIAL ACTS that are preceded by Genuine & PERSONAL Thought!** ...For me as an individual, the Ministry of Jesus comes to me and requires me to (1) Consider what I should turn away from! What I should STOP believing and doing!—ie, REPENT! ... (2) To Believe (=to come into agreement with and place my faith in something specific).

“The first component of the Christian’s spiritual foundation is repentance (Acts 2:38; 3:19). This means turning away from something that is detrimental to one’s being. Basically repentance constitutes a negative action, in this case a change of mind that results in no longer performing “acts that lead to death.” Repentance, then, is an activity that involves the mind and thinking of a person—a complete turnabout in the life of the believer. No longer does he show an interest in activities that lead to his destruction. He now shuns the effects of sin that bring about death (Rom. 5:12, 21; 6:23; 7:11).” **Hendrickson & Kistemaker**, “Exposition of Hebrews”, NTC

— Repentance is a “Foundational & Clarifying Word”!! ...If it is understood correctly, it will “start you off on the RIGHT FOOT”!! ...It is a word that has “compass/Map like qualities”—it Defines Where Something IS Located, thus it tells you what kind of course adjustment YOU need to make!

— **ILLUST:** Like a Point on a Map (“Righteousness”, “Truth”, “Gospel”, “God” ...is a “point on a map”! ...I don’t create it or inform it in any way! ...I just “Discover” Where it has Always Been—and Then I Adjust My Course Heading to get in line with it!)

...I’m going to have to CHANGE COURSE HEADING in my life—I will need to STOP heading in my previous direction and START heading to a New Location!

“Faith toward God”

“WASHINGS & LAYING ON OF HANDS”

... “Baptisms”?? ...

... “Washings” or “Approach/Initiatory Elements”

...This is a massive advertisement for the concept of “HOLINESS” and the basic thought of—so, you’re a human and you want to come near to God!?

— John’s Baptism was a baptism of repentance. ...it was a washing that was generated by our “wrongness”

— The O.T. Sets up this Detailed and Elaborate Course in How to Approach God—called “The Tabernacle”

— God cannot be approached on Any or Every Terms!! ...There is difference & danger in the nature of God vs the nature of man! ...There is an INCOMPATIBILITY!

— There is CEREMONY that makes us mindful of this difference between us and God!

— That existence of “Formal Ceremony” is what educates us about the All Sufficiency of the Christ! ...Jesus FULFILLS the Required Ceremony!

“The RESURRECTION of the DEAD & ETERNAL JUDGMENT”

...Existence has a destination! ...Life has meaning AND consequences! ...We are Not Meant to Think of Our Lives as Random, Amoral, and Inconsequential!

Heb 5:14 *But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

— Informs us of our need to be trained in “good and evil”

Rom 12:2 *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

— Informs us that in order to agree with God about Right & Wrong—we must have our minds renewed!!

... “Elemental” to Human Existence is Our Understanding that Our Lives are Meaningful and Consequential!!

Heb 9:27 *...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...*

2 Cor 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

...You are not intended to “do life” with a dismissed sense of judgment and accountability!

[Heb 6:1] There is no proposal here that the listeners should abandon these basic truths. Indeed, the author reminds them of some of the essential elements of the foundation by immediately listing them (vv. 1b-2). His point is that they are not to lay again the basis of elementary teaching, but to make progress by building on it. The solid food that they need is 'a development of the themes of repentance and faith, resurrection from the dead and eternal judgment', in the light of the author's 'exposition of the high priesthood of Christ'. **Peter Obrien**, (Pillar New Testament Commentary)