

Peter Pan Christians

Text : **Hebrews 5: 11-14** (Reading : 5:9-6:2)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Do you remember the story of Peter Pan ? (Written by J.M. Barrie 1906)

1. The full title was, “*Peter Pan or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up.*”
2. About a group adolescent of boys called the “*lost boys.*”
 - a. They are lead by a mischievous lad named Peter Pan.
 - b. They lived a fantasy-filled life on a small island called Never Land.
 - c. It is so named because the boys have decided they will never grow up.
3. In the movie Peter Pan taught the boys a song which summarizes their philosophy.

I won't grow up, I don't want to go to school,
Just to learn to be a parrot, And recite a silly rule.
If growing up means It would be beneath my dignity to climb a tree,
I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up
Not me! Not I, Not me! Not me!

I won't grow up, I don't want to wear a tie,
And a serious expression In the middle of July.
And if it means I must prepare To shoulder burdens with a worried air,
I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up
Not me, Not I, Not me! So there!

Never gonna be a man, I won't!
Like to see somebody try And make me.
Anyone who wants to try And make me turn into a man,
Catch me if you can.
I won't grow up. Not a penny will I pinch.
I will never grow a mustache, Or a fraction of an inch.
'Cause growing up is awfuller Than all the awful things that ever were.
I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up,
No sir, Not I, Not me, So there!

I won't grow up! I will never even try
I will do what Peter tells me And I'll never ask him why.
We won't grow up! We will never grow a day
And if someone tries to make it, We will simply run away.
I won't grow up! No, I promise that I won't.
I will stay a boy forever And be banished if I don't!
And Never Land will always be The home of beauty and joy And neverty
I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up
Not me! Not me! Not me! Not me! No sir! Not me!

4. Peter Pan is a cute fantasy that has entertained children for generations.

B. However, though a cute story, it's frustrating to deal with those who try to make Never land a reality in their lives.

1. We've all tried to deal with people who were "*just a big kid.*"
2. They are often unsafe and unproductive in the work place.

C. Each succeeding generation seems to produce more such individuals.

1. Our desire to make life better for our children tends to make them less independent, less responsible, and less productive.
2. Our good intentions have created a significant social problem.
 - a. Young people expect to have more, but are not prepared to earn it.
 - b. People use credit to give immediate satisfaction to their desires.
 - c. More people are looking to others to provide for them.

*** It is okay to take from the rich and give to the poor, because they are entitled to have what others worked to earn.**

D. This ungodly attitude exists in the church as well as in society.

1. People feel they are entitled to all that God has to offer.
2. They shop for a church which offers the "services" they want. (**illustrate – calls**)
3. People come to church to receive, to be built up and edified with no thought of responsibility to others. (**No Love**)
4. Sunday is often viewed as one's day off rather than as the "**Lord's Day.**"
 - a. It's viewed as one's day for rest and recreation.
 - b. It's is used as a family day rather than as a day dedicated worship and praise.

TRANSITION :

It is no less frustrating to deal with such people in the church than it is to deal with them in the world. Our text reveals the frustration of the writer of Hebrews felt. He wanted to teach them, but they were unprepared to learn.

I. Notice our text ... Vs. 9-11

A. He wants to teach them about Melchizedek but they were not capable of learning.

1. The problem was not with the writer's ability to teach.
2. The readers were incapable of learning.

B. The problem was not that the readers were uneducated or dumb.

1. The scriptures were written by uneducated men to uneducated men. (**Acts 4:13**)
 2. Many illiterate people have learned and taught the scriptures. (**illustrate**)
 3. Paul taught that one can understand if he reads his writings. (**Eph. 4:3**)
- * **NO special education is required to understand the scriptures.**

C. They had “become dull of hearing.”

1. The problem was a decision they had made, NOT their lack of ability.
2. They had not always been dull of hearing, they became that way.
 - a. New Christians are zealous and eager to grow.
 - b. Exposure to older Christians dampens their zeal.
3. Jesus warned us that those who do not advance will forfeit their blessings.
 - a. **Read ... Luke 8: 16-18** (Emphasize ... Vs - **18**)
 - b. Jesus tells us to **“use it or loose it.”**

D. NOTICE : Jesus also warned (Vs- **18) that we must “take care how you listen.”**

1. How one hears reflects the condition of his heart.
2. Jesus often exhorted, “**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**” (e.g. **Mark 11:15**)
3. Christians often tune out the word like a constant noise. (**If heard it all before.**)
 - a. Living by a train track or freeway.
 - b. On the farm hearing crickets and frogs at night. (**Don’t notice until gone.**)
4. Many Christians have heard so many sermons they become like traffic noise.

II. Vs. 12-13 Explains that they had already retrogressed.**A. They need a refresher course.**

1. They understood the elementary teachings of the Christian faith, **but** forgot them.
2. Remember the parable of the talents ? (**Matt. 25: 14-30**)
 - a. The one talent man tried to maintain the status quo.
 - b. He was rejected and cast out. (**called wicked**)
 - c. The one talent which he had maintained so well was taken away from him. (**28-29**)
3. This applies directly to Christians in all places and in all ages. (**wicked / spewed out**)

B. Peter Pan is a fairy tale ; Never Land does not exist.

1. Nothing alive can remain static, it’s either growing or dying.

2. Likewise, faith is either growing or dying.
3. Knowledge and understanding is either increasing or decreasing.

C. Vs. 13 ... They had returned to infancy so they needed milk.

1. Milk is good food, but a diet of milk will not sustain an adult.
2. The reference here is to mother's milk.
 - a. Mother's milk is "predigested food."
 - b. Mother's milk will feed the baby well ONLY if the mother eats well.
 - c. Christians who rely solely on a weekly feeding from the preacher's sermon are existing on predigested food. They depend on him to eat well first.
3. Milk is essential for babies.
 - a. It is required to enable them to grow beyond the need for milk.
I Pet. 2:2- like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,
so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
 - b. Nature demonstrates that maturity creates the desire for more solid food.

D. When one is weaned he goes beyond the milk to a variety of solid foods.

1. Christians cannot just stay with the basic doctrines, the first principles.
2. Once a child learns his A B Cs he soon learns to read.
 - a. Imagine your reaction if your child was still reciting his A B Cs in the fifth grade !
 - b. Repetition is required for learning, but too much repetition creates apathy.
3. We are commanded to teach "**all things**" Jesus commanded so we must press on after the first principles to learn the rest of Jesus' teachings. (**Matt. 28: 20**)

III. Vs. 12 also explains that we have a responsibility to teach what we learn.

A. The writer isn't commanding that every Christian has to be a classroom teacher.

1. Not everyone is to hold the office of a teacher.
 - a. **James 3:1-** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren,
knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.
 - b. There is an office of a teacher. (**II Tim 1:11** , **I Cor. 12: 28-29**)
2. One is responsible to learn before he teaches. (**I Tim. 1: 7**) (Cf- *one talent man*)

B. Every Christians has a responsibility to become able to teach others.

1. **One who does not mature to the point he can teach is **NOT** faithful.**

2. Each generation is built upon the back of the previous generation.
 - a. The older Christians are responsible to teach the younger Christians.
Read & Exegete ... Titus 2: 3-5 (by words, not just example)
 - b. Whatever you have been taught, you must teach to other Christians.
II Tim . 2: 2- The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (We must prepare them to teach.)
 - c. We must teach the gospel to lost people.
I Pet. 3: 15- sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (Luke 6: 46)

Remember : Col. 4: 5- Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
 3. **We do not have the freedom to pick and choose which commands we will keep. If we are to be faithful, we must prepare ourselves to teach.**
- C. Sunday is a time when all Christians edify and equip each other.
1. **I Cor. 14: 26- ... Let all things be done for edification. (It's a time for equipping.)**
 2. **Col. 3: 16- Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**
 3. **Heb. 10: 23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to motivate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**
- D. Every faithful Christian is a minister.
1. **Rom. 15:14- ...I ... am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.**
 2. **Gal. 6: 2- Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.**
 3. **As in the flesh, there must come a time in the life of every child of God when he matures past being a burden into one who bears the burdens of others.**

IV. Vs. 14 ... Consistent Practical application is elemental to discernment.

A. One of the fundamental differences between infants and adults :

1. Infants are spectators who observe and try to figure out life. (**experiment**)
2. Adults are participants in life.

3. Spiritually, the recipients of the Hebrew letter had returned to the spectator stage.

- * a. **Many churches today are composed almost entirely of spectators. (5% core)**
- b. Mature Christians are the participants who make it happen.

B. Studies about how people learn show that :

1. We remember only about **10%** of what we hear.
2. We remember about **50%** of what we both see and hear. (**Power Point Helps**)
3. However, we remember about **90%** of what we hear, see, and DO.

C. When we hear a lesson or read the word, we should ask :

1. God, what are you telling me ? (**Every context has an application to your life.**)
2. THEN ... God what am I going to do with what I have heard / read ?
3. If you study with this attitude for just 15 minutes every day, it will change your life.
4. James put it this way, **“Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:22**

D. Even professional athletes practice regularly. Why ?

1. They want to develop and keep *“muscle memory”* so they can act without thinking.
ILL. - How did Santonio Holmes get both feet down at corner of end zone ?
2. Christians need to practice their faith to develop instinctive righteousness.
3. How many times have you missed opportunities because of fear ?
 - a. to share the gospel ?
 - b. to help someone with a problem ?
 - c. to admonish or encourage a brother ?

CONCLUSION :

A. Thus, the admonition to the Hebrew Christian is applicable to us.

1. We must develop the desire to become skilled in the word.
2. We must share what we know with others.
3. We must put what we learn into practice. (**John 13**)

B. Our objective is not just to know and to understand, but to be TRANSFORMED. (It's the fruit of effort.)

*** 1. How is your transformation progressing ?**

2. Have you chosen to be dull of hearing **or** are you seeking maturity ?