

# Hebrews 5:11-6:3: An Ancient Christology; Belief-Hope-Mystery

*"Make it your work with diligence to apply the word as you are hearing it...Cast not all (burden) upon the minister, as those that will go no further than they are carried by force... You have work to do as the preacher, and should be as busy as he...therefore be all the while at work and abhor an idle heart."*

*Puritan Preacher Richard Baxter*

## sermonnotes

### Introduction

*Preached @ Harambee Church by Pastor Michael Gunn on January 8, 2006.*

### Introduction

After a few weeks' Christmas hiatus, we are back into our study of Hebrews and are diving right into a two part parenthetical warning passage that may be hard to hear. Remember that there is a great deal of spiritual depression brought on by the anxiety of their situation (persecution), and their subsequent doubt as to the sufficiency of Jesus Christ in their lives. Their situation is no different than our own. We live in anxiety due to external circumstances, and many of us are anxious because we have internally begun to doubt Christ's sufficiency in our own lives. Today's passage outlines the cause's of spiritual melancholy and directs us to the author's obvious solution: Jesus Christ.

### From the Head...

*The Causes of Spiritual Melancholy*  
Spiritual Laziness (Hebrews 5:11-12)  
Failure to Practice our Faith (Hebrews 5: 13-14)

*The Cure for Spiritual Melancholy*  
Grow Your Faith Beyond Your Accepted Beliefs (Hebrews 6:1-2)  
Realize that God is Sovereign (Hebrews 6:3)

### ...to the Heart

It takes hard work to grow spiritually. God is sovereign over our growth, but He is equally apt to allow us to wallow in our struggles in order to bring about the growth that He desires in our lives. What is it in your life that you are doing to assure spiritual growth and a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ? What voices in our culture are you listening to? How do you prepare to listen to the message brought forth every week here at Harambee? I would like to make a few suggestions to help facilitate spiritual growth in your life.

1. Come to church prepared. Pray before the service. Read our brief commentary on the section for this week before you come. Bring your bible, a note pad, and listen attentively. Include in your notes a clear action that the text and the Holy Spirit prompt you to do that week.
2. Be reading through the bible during the week. My suggestion is that you either alternate Old Testament and New Testament books and read them straight through until you are done, or employ one of the many reading plans to read through the bible in a year, 2 years, etc. I would also suggest that you pray before you read for God to enlighten your eyes, and open the ears of your heart so that you can discern His will and act accordingly.
3. Take at least 15 minutes each day and pray using the acrostic ACTS as your guide (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication). Pick up our prayer list each week, and be praying for our church, community and world issues, and the people in our church. It may be quite helpful to take one day a month (or more) to fast and pray, reminding us of the sustenance that we get from God, and dedicating our eating time to prayer and reading the word.
4. Try to begin a scripture memorization plan, since Psalms 119:11 reminds us that when we hide God's word in our heart, we are less apt to sin against God.
5. Be involved in Christian community, which involves spending time with people in bible study, praying for one another, and meeting one another's needs through giving and receiving.
6. Create a plan to begin sharing your faith and imparting God's wisdom to others that you are surrounded by at work, school, or home. There are many opportunities to meet people if we are intentional.

together • pushing • forward

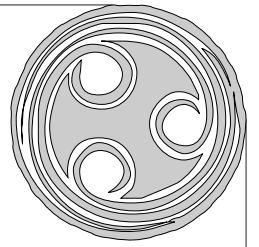
**Harambee**church

7. No matter what your schedule is, create a plan for you and your family to serve in the church and in ministries that reach out to others in the community and beyond.

8. No matter where you are financially, begin giving back to the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ and to charitable organizations for the sake of the gospel.

These are basic ancient Christian practices that help us grow spiritually and begin to enjoy Him completely (maturely).

## sermonnotes



---

### pastors

mikegunn ::  
mike@vivaharambee.com  
bradsessler ::  
brad@vivaharambee.com  
marksteeds ::  
mark@vivaharambee.com  
bryanzug ::  
zug@vivaharambee.com

### deacons

bryannelson :: administrator  
bryan@vivaharambee.com  
aaronyoungren :: music  
aaron@vivaharambee.com  
mike&sandysmith :: prayer  
prayer@vivaharambee.com  
jennyrygel :: hospitality  
jenny@vivaharambee.com