<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
The Danger of Dull Hearing
Hebrews 5:11-14

<u>Introduction</u>

Hebrews is written to believers who started off with passionate, joyful faith in Christ (10:32-34). But something terrible had happened — and some were on the brink of falling away.

<u>What was their problem</u>? (5:11)

Some think their problem was that they had settled for only knowing basic doctrines — the milk. And had not gone on to learn more advanced doctrines — solid food. But that does not fit v.12.

Their problem was not that they were hearing only the basic doctrines. Their problem was that they were hearing with dullness — they were dull of hearing (v.11).

<u>What does it mean to be dull of hearing</u>?

6:12 shows that the word "dull" can mean "sluggish" and is the opposite of earnestness.
So dull hearing is sluggish hearing, lazy hearing, not-earnest-hearing.
Take Hebrews 11:6 as an example of hearing milk with dullness, and with earnestness.

<u>What will happen when we hear with earnestness</u>? (5:12-14)

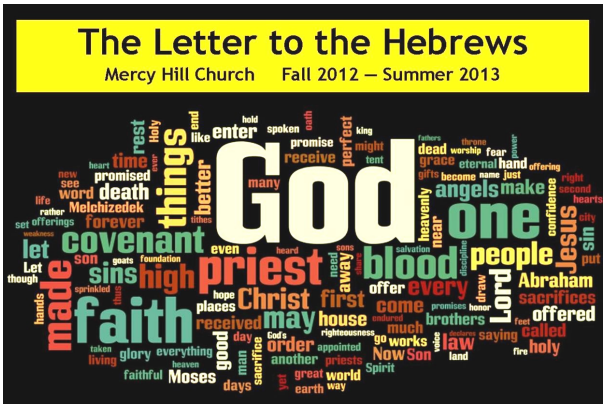
We will want the deeper truths of God's Word (vv.12-13)
We will be able to distinguish good from evil (v.14).

<u>How can we tell if we have become dull of hearing</u>?

Reading God's Word is something we want to get out of the way.
It's been a long time since reading God's Word has convicted me of sin, filled me with joy, made me weep.

<u>So what can we do</u>?

- Listen to this message earnestly.
- As you prepare to read or hear God's Word, ask God to change your heart and make you earnest.
- Read slowly and thoughtfully. Mix in more prayer for God's help.
- As you do this He will meet you. Show you His glory. Change your heart. Make you want solid food. Give you maturity. Enable you to discern good from evil.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

On a scale of 1 (dull) to 10 (earnest) — what's been true of your hearing and reading of God's Word lately?

Are you more or less earnest now than when you were first saved? Why?

Can you see from the passage that their problem was NOT that they settled for the milk of the word and neglected the solid food of the word? Can you see that their problem was that they were not really receiving either the milk or the solid food of the word — because they were dull of hearing? Why or why not?

How much do you hunger for the solid food of the word? Do you have more or less hunger than in times past? What are some causes?

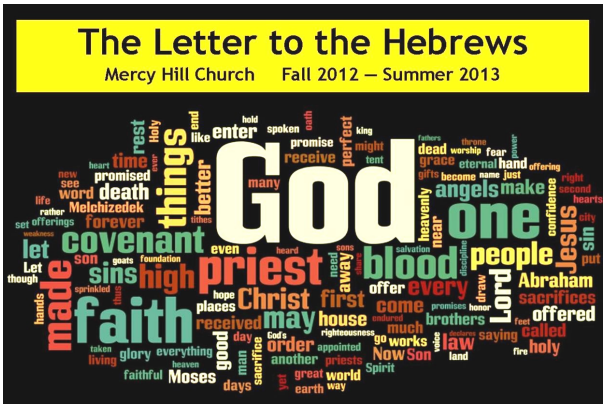
Does it make sense that we need to start with earnest hearing of the milk of the word, and that as we do that God will change our hearts so we hunger for the solid food? Why or why not?

What are some of the dangers of being dull of hearing?

What steps have you taken to overcome dullness of hearing? How have those steps affected you?

What questions did Sunday's message raise in your mind?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.


The Letter to the Hebrews
Mercy Hill Church Fall 2012 – Summer 2013
God
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faith
covenant
blood
things
people
Jesus
angels
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Christ
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Abraham
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glory
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