

Hebrews 5:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Analysis

Those on milk are 'unskilled in the word of righteousness' (Greek 'apeiros' - inexperienced) and are 'infants' (Greek 'nēpios'). This isn't about salvation status but maturity level. The 'word of righteousness' likely refers to gospel truth about justification and righteous living. Reformed theology distinguishes between positional righteousness (imputed) and progressive righteousness (sanctification), both learned through Scripture.

Historical Context

Infant Christians were particularly vulnerable in a hostile culture. The author wants them to mature quickly because persecution requires strong faith anchored in deep theological understanding.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What areas of biblical truth remain 'milk-level' in your understanding that should advance to 'solid food'?

- How does spiritual immaturity leave you vulnerable to false teaching or cultural pressure?

Interlinear Text

πᾶς	γάρ	ό	μετέχων	γάλακτος	ἄπειρος	λόγου
every one	For	G3588	that useth	milk	is unskilful	in the word
G3956	G1063		G3348	G1051	G552	G3056
δικαιοσύνης	νήπιος	γάρ	ἐστιν·			
of righteousness	a babe	For	he is			
G1343	G3516	G1063	G2076			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:20 (Parallel theme): Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

1 Peter 2:2 (Word): As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Isaiah 28:9 (Parallel theme): Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

2 Timothy 3:16 (Righteousness): All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Ephesians 4:14 (Parallel theme): That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Corinthians 3:1 (Parallel theme): And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Psalms 119:123 (Righteousness): Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (Parallel theme): When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

2 Corinthians 3:9 (Righteousness): For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Mark 10:15 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org