

How to Become a Skillful Christian

Heb. 5:12-14

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews had become “unskilled in the word of righteousness.” (v. 13).
 - 1. Created a “communications gap”. (v. 11)
 - 2. Hindered “discernment”. (v.14).
- B. Christians should want to be as skillful as possible.
 - 1. Do this in lesser matters: job, sports, art, etc.
 - 2. Why I will always be a “duffer.”)
- C. It takes three basic things to become skillful in any worthwhile endeavor, especially Christianity.

Discussion:

I. It Takes *Study* To Become Skillful. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).

- A. Hard to become skillful on one 30-45 minute sermon per week. (cf. Acts 8:28; 17:11; Ps. 1:2).
- B. Hard to become skillful on poor study habits.
 - 1. Merely looking at words.
 - 2. Letting Bible fall open anywhere.
 - 3. Passing over unfamiliar words and phrases.
- C. Hard to become skillful on passive listening. (cf. Man sat through many sermons without hearing.).
- D. Hard to become skilled on Bible Classes that are not *Bible* Classes.
 - 1. Many “special classes” are really pop psychology in content.
 - 2. Many stray so far from the text and become useless as *Bible* Classes.

II. It Takes *Experience* To Become Skillful. (v. 14)

- A. Cannot develop skill by study alone. (“by reason of use” Jas. 1:22-25).
 - 1. Cf. “College whiz kid” must have experience on job.
 - 2. One can know every fact in Bible and still not be able to apply them.
- B. Cannot develop some knowledge without experience. (John 8:31,32).
 - 1. Apostles, in early stages, too inexperienced to receive many things. (John 16:12)
 - 2. Cf. Each step in assembling instructions easier after doing previous one.

III. It Takes *Time* To Become Skillful. (v. 12)

- A. Babes in Christ need to recognize this fact.
 - 1. Or they will become discouraged with self.
 - 2. Or they want to become teachers and leaders prematurely. (cf. Jas 3:1; 1 Tim. 3:6).
 - 3. Or they become offended if their judgement is not followed by older brethren.
- B. Mature in Christ need to recognize this fact.
 - 1. Or become impatient with mistakes of babes in Christ.
 - 2. Or push them into mature roles prematurely.
- C. All must be willing to give *time* to spiritual development.
 - 1. Too many fill *all* our time with lesser matters.
 - 2. Too many wonder why own development not faster -- may be time element.

Conclusion:

- A. Remember: It takes all three to become skillful Christians.
- B. Remember: Cannot be a skillful Christian - if not a Christian at all.