

MORE THAN A BUILDING: MAKING DISCIPLES

Matthew 28.16-20, Hebrews 5.11-6.12

Previously, we have discussed our priorities as a church. What should we be focused on?

From Jesus' greatest commandments in Matthew 22 we discover that our priorities should be loving God and loving others. Hence, the first two pillars of Beaver Dam are Authentic Worship and Building Community through loving others.

Another command Jesus left to his disciples is found in Matthew:

...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
Matthew 28.19-20

The third pillar of Beaver Dam is Making Disciples. A disciple is a **LEARNER** of the way of Jesus.

The early church did this.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
Acts 2.42

The writer of Hebrews is hoping that his readers will long to become more proficient in understanding the whole message of scripture and the gospel. He wants to see grown-up Christianity.

THE BENEFITS OF GROWN-UP CHRISTIANITY (Discipleship) Hebrews 5.11-6.12

1. You make **BETTER DECISIONS**.

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
Hebrews 5.14

2. It keeps you from **FALLING AWAY** from the **FAITH**. Hebrews 6.4-8

3. It helps you to **PASS ON THE FAITH**.

...you ought to be teachers... Hebrews 5.12

4. You get **MORE OUT OF LIFE**.

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age...

Hebrews 6.4-5

So in moving forward, the writer of Hebrews challenges us regarding discipleship:

1. **PRIORITIZE IT** *...you no longer try to understand.* v11

2. **READ, PONDER** and **STUDY** the **BIBLE**.

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. v13

3. **LIVE BY IT.** *...who by constant use...* v14

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7.24

4. **REPEAT IT** *...have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.* v14

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.
Hebrews 6.12