

## Empty Religion – Part 2 (Zechariah 7)

### Review

#### **vv. 11-12:** Response of Israelite forefathers to God's Word

1. They refused to \_\_\_\_\_
2. They gave a \_\_\_\_\_ shoulder
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ their ears from \_\_\_\_\_
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Insights and Application** – Characteristic #5 of Empty Religion:

Hears / follows / is at home with the word of \_\_\_\_\_; but refuses to \_\_\_\_\_ / follow / be at home with the word of \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Jn. 8:43-47** – Jesus: *You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ My word.*

1. Because it is \_\_\_\_\_
  - *Your father is the* \_\_\_\_\_
  - The devil does not traffic in the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 4:4)
2. They were not \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 2:14) – do not have the \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Heb. 5:11-14** – Believers can have trouble \_\_\_\_\_ God's word \_\_\_\_\_ of hearing – sluggish, heavy, slothful of hearing \_\_\_\_\_

1. The evidence – *By this* \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ to truth learned
  - They should be \_\_\_\_\_ Instead...
  - They still need \_\_\_\_\_ (basics) vs. \_\_\_\_\_ of the word of God  
1 Cor. 3:1-3; 1 Pet. 2:2-3 – milk and \_\_\_\_\_ food
  - No \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ food = word of righteousness
  - Still a \_\_\_\_\_ – the problem? *By this time* should be \_\_\_\_\_
2. Maturity = having their senses \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ good & evil
  - By regularly practicing / \_\_\_\_\_ the milk & meat of the Word
3. *Principles:*
  - Even Christians can become \_\_\_\_\_ in their hearing of the Word
  - **Maturity** is a function of \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ + Practice + \_\_\_\_\_
4. Marks of maturity: learning, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God
5. *Application:* Am I on the path to \_\_\_\_\_ or growing \_\_\_\_\_?  
Response:

## Discussion Questions: Zechariah 7

1. Comment on any or all of the 5 characteristics of *Empty Religion* from Zechariah 7.

Do you see any of them as a particular struggle for your life or for our church body?

2. What are some reasons believers have a hard time *getting on* and/or *staying on* the path to spiritual maturity?

- Do any of these resonate with your assessment of your own spiritual walk?

3. What is *one thing* you definitely want to take away with you from today's message?

How do you plan to *follow through* on that *one thing*?