Word Study of ἀρχῆς in the Book of Hebrews 6:1-12[[1]](#footnote-1)

Word Study for BI5500 Hermeneutics

Jarret Hutchison

The Semantic Range of ἀρχῆς

The noun ἀρχῆς appears in 7 different ways in the New Testament, first meaning is seen in Hebrews 7:3 as “beginning” referring to a point of time, second meaning is in Colossians 1:18 where it is used as “beginning” referring to a person that started a process, third it is used in Revelation 3:14 as “beginning” referring to being the first of something created, fourth it is used as “corner” in Acts 10:11 talking about two surfaces coming together, fifth we see it used as the word “elementary” in Hebrews 5:12 as a starting point for knowledge/understanding, sixth as “authority” in Luke 20:20 talking about someone in charge that initiates a process and in Jude 6 as “authority” meaning ones space or role.[[2]](#footnote-2) We see this word pop up about 54 times in the New Testament but each of those 54 times it is referencing one of the 7 interpretations I covered previously. Hebrews 6:1-12 contains the fifth interpretation of this word being used when the author talks about leaving behind the elementary doctrine of Christ which is clearly stating to leave our base knowledge. I used Hebrews 5:12 to help me jump to this conclusion because the author uses the same word in this passage, and is talking about the basic principles of God which correlates well with Hebrews 6:1 which is why the author uses the word “therefore” so we can put this passage in context.

Word Study of σπουδὴν in the Book of Hebrews 6:1-12[[3]](#footnote-3)

Word Study for BI5500 Hermeneutics

Jarret Hutchison

The Semantic Range of σπουδὴν

The noun σπουδὴν appears in 2 different ways in the New Testament, first use is seen as “haste” in Mark 6:25 in regards to movement, second we see it used as “zeal” in Romans 12:11 in regards to acting on a commitment. We see this word pop up in 12 different verses in the New Testament, one translation we see is used as “haste” in (Mark 6:25; Luke 1:39), we also see it used as “earnestness” in (2 Corinthians 7:11-12; 2 Corinthians 8:7-8; Hebrews 6:11), we also see it used a “eagerness” (2 Corinthians 8:7), as “zeal” in (2 Corinthians 8:7; Romans 12:8), as “eager” (Jude 3) and as “effort” (2 Peter 1:5).[[4]](#footnote-4) In Hebrews 6:11 we see this word used as earnestness talking about ones level of commitment to God and to have the full assurance of hope.

Word Study of νωθροὶ in the Book of Hebrews 6:1-12[[5]](#footnote-5)

Word Study for BI5500 Hermeneutics

Jarret Hutchison

The Semantic Range of νωθροὶ

The adjective νωθροὶ appears only once in the New Testament from what I can tell, the main way that this word is translated is with “lazy” or “sluggish” seen in (Hebrews 6:12)[[6]](#footnote-6). The main message the author is trying to get across by using this specific word is to be careful about being lazy, and the reason why I specifically chose this word is because when put in context we can use Hebrews 6:11 to help us see how we should fight off our laziness by being earnest in our hope. This main message is a warning that if we ignore the previous verse about being earnest then we will fall into a “slothful” (KJV) state but instead we can be imitators of those who went before us in faith to be with God.

1. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The MacArthur Study Bible, English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)