

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 3/20-21/2023 *Hebrews 13:1-25*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE CCCM FAMILY ROOM

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Chapter 13 Concluding Moral Directions – vs. 1-6; Concluding Religious Directions – 7-17; Prayer - vs. 18-19; Benediction, Final Exhortation, Farewell – vs. 20-25!

Review: (Heb 12:29) For our God is a consuming fire.

The thirteen chapter is filled with exhortation and instruction. They do not necessarily follow a particular pattern, but just various instructions and exhortations. He begins with five things that the believer should do.

Sacrifices Pleasing to God

Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love (philadelphia) continue.

- **Number one, Let brotherly love continue.** In the early church, there was much persecution from the world. It was necessary that they be a close-knit fellowship. They had enough trouble with the world that they didn't need trouble within the ranks. *Brotherly love* was an extremely important thing! The idea of the body of Christ is that we are all a part of each other, sharing with one another. If one member suffers, they all suffer. When one is exalted, they all are exalted. *Brotherly love* is something that is so important, that we love one another. Remember you are family! (**Joh 13:35**) *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (**Rom 12:10**) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (**1Th 4:9**) But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.*

Heb 13:2 Do not forget (neglect) to entertain (hospitality) strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels (messengers).

- **Secondly, Do not forget to entertain (philoxenia, hospitality - like Abraham, Lot - Gen 18,19; Rahab - Jos 2) strangers.** The second grace needing development was the extension of love to those who were strangers. Hospitality in the ancient world often included putting up a guest overnight or longer. This is hardest to do when experiencing a time of persecution. The Hebrews would not know whether a guest would prove to be a spy or a fellow believer being pursued. (**Rom 12:13**) *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*
- **Do not forget to entertain strangers (believers, not the general public, be hospitable to one another), for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.** In those days, the inns were notoriously evil. An inn keeper and one who ran a brothel were put in the same category. There are records of a person asking another, in a particular city, which inn has the least fleas? They were always filthy. They were nothing like hotels or motels that we have today. In the early church, there were many itinerant evangelists and itinerant prophets who would go around ministering from church to church. When they came, it was important that there was hospitality, that people would receive them. It was especially an important part of the Jewish culture. We remember Lot, (**Gen 19:2a**) *And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way. When they came to the city of Sodom, Lot invited them into his home. An example of entertaining strangers.*
- **Now the writer says, because you may be entertaining angels unaware.** The word, angel, means *messenger*. In the Book of Revelation, the seven angels were the ministers of the seven churches in Ephesus. So, an angel is not necessarily a divine being. He is not necessarily saying that you might be entertaining a divine being, unaware, but you could be entertaining one of God's *messengers*, not really realizing it.
- **For by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.** This is not given as the ultimate motivation for hospitality, but to reveal that one never knows how far-reaching an act of kindness might be (**Mat 25:40**) *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. This is exactly what happened to Abraham and Sarah, Lot, Gideon, and Manoah.*

Heb 13:3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

- **Then the third thing, Remember the prisoners as if chained with them.** In in the early church, there was tremendous persecution. Being a Christian was enough to get you in prison. The Christians, because they would not swear allegiance to Caesar, refusing to say that Caesar is Lord, were looked upon as traitors to Rome, and were often placed in prison. We read of Paul's imprisonment, and we know that many of the letters were written from Paul's prison cell.
- **There are those who are in chains for Christ's sake.** This is even applicable today. There are those who are in prison because of the work of Jesus Christ, in many countries throughout the world. Many of the church leaders have been beaten over and over because they have dared to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to remember to pray for them! When one member suffers, they all

suffer. It is important that we keep them in our prayers!

Heb 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- **Then the next injunction is concerning marriage. Marriage is honorable among all.** God highly honors marriage, which He instituted at creation. (*Gen 2:24*) *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* But some people in the early church considered celibacy to be holier than marriage, an idea Paul strongly denounces in (*1Ti 4:1,3*) *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, [3] forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.* You should get married rather than choosing to remain unmarried, believing that that is more spiritual. They lived a life, shunning getting married, thinking that they could better serve God. There is nothing sinful, there is nothing wrong with being married. Marriage is honorable. It's not something to be shunned, if God brings along the right person, marriage is honorable in all. A person is not more spiritual, if they choose to remain single!
- **And the bed undefiled: There's nothing evil or wrong about sex, within marriage.** If it weren't for sex, you wouldn't be here. There is nothing wrong with sex within the commitment of marriage, within the marriage, within the marriage! Emphasize that! It didn't have to be emphasized a few years back, but now with our culture of just moving in, living together, is absolutely wrong! We are suffering the consequences of it in the breakdown of the family and all of the single parents. The whole social order is being disrupted because of the careless, loose attitude that we have towards sexual relationships.
- **But fornicators (sex outside of marriage) and adulterers (married sexually involved outside of that marriage) God will judge.** Sexual activity in a marriage is pure, but any sexual activity outside marriage brings one under divine judgment. In absolute contrast to God's holiness and love, such sins as fornication and adultery exist, by which Satan seeks to destroy God's divine work in His children, turning them as far away as possible from His image and will. This verse, as many others do, shows the close connection between sexual sin and other forms of impurity and greed. An immoral person is inevitably greedy. Such sins are so godless that the world should never have reason even to suspect their presence in Christians. (*1Co 6:9,10b*) *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10b] will inherit the kingdom of God*
- **God will judge misuse of sex outside of marriage - Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States:** New infections each year – 20 million; Total STDS among men and women – 110 Million; Direct Medical costs – \$16 Billion; Proportion of new infections in ages 15-24 – 50%

Heb 13:5 Let your conduct (way in which a person behaves or lives) be without covetousness (accumulation of material things is most important in your life); be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."

- **The fifth injunction or commandment is, Let your conduct** (conversation, character), which encompasses your whole lifestyle. It is not just having a conversation with someone. The word encompasses your lifestyle or your manner of living.
- **Be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.** The injunction is really that of contentment. The Bible tells us, (*Php 4:11*) *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (1Ti 6:6) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.* There are those who want and are never filled. What does it take to be satisfied? You know, if you follow after your lust, you will find that lust can never be fulfilled. It is never full. We have to learn contentment. Having food and clothing, the Scripture says, be content with that. How content am I?
- **I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU!** Quoted from (*Gen 28:15* – Jacob at Bethel) *Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you. (Deu 31:6 - Joshua) Be*

strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He **will not leave you nor forsake you**. This is also quoted in (Jos 1:5) and (1Ch 28:20 - David speaking to Solomon). Believers can be content in every situation because of this promise. Be content with such things as you have. What more do you really want? The Lord has said, look, *I will never leave you or forsake you!* I mean how rich can you be? The Lord will take care of us, even as He took care of the apostles, as He walked with them here on earth. He will take care of us! Be content! He is forever with you!

Heb 13:6 So we may boldly (confidentially and courageously) **say: "THE LORD IS MY HELPER; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"**

(Psa 118:6) *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*

- **Can you say that? Can you say that boldly? THE LORD IS MY HELPER! Good!** Try it again. *THE LORD IS MY HELPER.* We may boldly say that!
- **I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?** Now again in the light of the persecution by the Roman Government, think of it in that light. As the Christians would be tortured and put to death, if they did not confess that Caesar was Lord, they would say, I will not fear what man shall do to me!
- **Jesus said, (Mat 10:28)** *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* But fear Him, who after the body is killed, has the power to cast your soul into hell. Fear Him!
- **We may boldly say, the Lord is my helper!** The Lord is with me! I like that kind of confidence, of knowing that the Lord is with me! I need not fear what man can do to me!
- **You remember David, (Psa 23:4)** *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.* The Lord is with me! Oh, how glorious, to be able to have that assurance—Jesus is with me wherever I go! Amen?

Heb 13:7 Remember those who rule (lead, command, consider) **over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering** (to behold, look again) **the outcome of their conduct.**

- **Now he is talking about the Godly ministers, which is a rule in a sense that they are overseers** of your faith. The idea is to consider them. They have spoken to you the Word of God. Follow their faith and realize the result of living a righteous life.
- **Now, it doesn't really follow that when it says, those that rule over you,** as though they have any kind of rule over you. They do have a certain responsibility to you, which is teaching or sharing with you, the Word of God. To teach it honestly and sincerely, as best they understand it. That is their responsibility. Also, they are to live an exemplary life before you. As Paul said, (1Co 11:1) *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*
- **Jesus said to the apostles, that the Gentiles loved to exercise authority.** Now true that is! How authority so quickly goes to a person's head. Give them a badge, give them a little authority, and look out! They will become tyrants! The Gentiles love to exercise lordship. But Jesus said, (Mar 9:35) *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.* Our example should be that of servitude, also, not lording over the flock of God, but as a servant, ministering to you the things of God.
- **In addition to the roll of the faithful in chapter 11, the writer reminds the Hebrews of their own faithful leaders within the church.** In so doing, he outlines the duties of pastors: (1) **Rule (Act 20:28)** *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* (2) **Speak the Word of God; (2Ti 4:2)** *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.* (3) **Establish the pattern of faith** for the people to follow. (Tit 1:5,9) *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— [9] holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- **What a beautiful statement! He never changes from His perfection! How important it is in a rapidly changing world, to hold onto something that doesn't change!** My, I think of how the world has changed in the last several decades! The radical changes that have transpired! I think of the changes that have taken place in the last ten years! We have seen so many poisons coming into our culture and society here in the USA. You know, when a body gets so weak that it cannot eliminate its poisons, that physical body will soon die. So, with the body politic. It has become so weak, that we cannot eliminate the poisons within our society, which only spell death. If the poisons are not eliminated, the body will die. We are now allowing the poison to remain. We cannot eliminate them.
- **Our courts and the government seem to defend and help promulgate the evil.** The abortion on demand, pushing transgenderism, homosexuality, obscenity, all kinds of evil and poison of our society, that we seem not to be able to eliminate. Death is the inevitable consequence of not eliminating poisons from your body. Things that were once considered a shame, a disgrace, are now openly accepted and embraced by the society, the radical changes! We need to hold on to something that doesn't change. Heaven and earth may pass away, but the Word of God stands forever! *Jesus Christ, He is the same, yesterday, today and forever!*
- **In Malachi, God declares that I am God and I change not!** The standards that God has set and have not changed! God's righteous laws have not changed! We need to hold on to the unchanging Christ! *Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and forever!* How valuable is He in your life?

Heb 13:9 Do not be carried about (away) with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

- **Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.** Oh, of all the divers and strange doctrines that are passed around through the church! Paul wrote in (***Eph 4:14***) *That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.* There are a lot of deceivers out there. There are a lot of winds of doctrine that are promulgated by people who are only seeking to draw people after themselves. Do not be carried about with the divers and strange doctrine, God has nothing new to reveal! He has given to us all that is necessary for life and Godliness. It is all here!
- **Paul warned the Ephesians at Miletus, (Act 20:29) For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.** After I'm gone, there are going to come in men who really don't care for the body of Christ! There will even arise from within you, men would try to draw others after themselves, whose god is their bellies. That is, they are only looking for money. They are only to fleece the flock. Jesus did not say, fleece the flock! He said, feed the flock of God!
- **For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace!** Those who are experiencing God's grace in Christ have hearts and minds that remain stable. In order to develop in us an increasingly mature, Christlike walk, our *heart must be established.* The law of God is not designed to change men's hearts. God's *grace* is the essential and sufficient cause to bring about this desired work of godliness. Once more we have powerful biblical insight showing us that *grace* is not only God's provision to forgive and birth us into His family, but grace is also His resource for the ongoing work of maturing us as His children.
- **The writer has been dealing with some of the Jews** who had developed an admixture of faith in Jesus Christ, along with Judaism, along with the law, along with the sacrifices in the temple. There was the belief that you cannot really be saved unless you keep the law of Moses and are circumcised. So it's important that we be established in the grace of God, not by works! For by the works of righteousness, will no flesh be justified! We are justified through our faith and the grace of God, so it is a good thing that the heart be established in grace!
- **Not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.** There is nothing spiritual about being a vegetarian. In fact, the Bible warns of the last days, when they would require you to abstain from meat. But they think there is something spiritual to vegetarianism, not so. It has not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Heb 13:10 *We have an altar* (access to God) *from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.*

- **We have Jesus Christ!** Those that are looking for the service of the tabernacle, they have no right to eat of the bread of life, that Jesus said He was. (**Joh 6:48**) *I am the bread of life!* They have no right, which serve the tabernacle. The Christian altar is the Christian sacrifice, which is Christ Jesus, with all the benefits of His passion and death. To these privileges they had no right who continued to offer the Levitical sacrifices, and to trust in them for remission of sins. We have an access to God, that the Levitical high priest could never dream of!
- **No right to eat! No access! Those who were mixing Judaism (1Co 11:27-29)** *So then, whoever eats the bread or with Christianity, really didn't understand what it was to eat of the Lord's Table, and to realize what we have in and through Jesus Christ! drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord. [28] Let a person examine himself; in this way let him eat the bread and drink from the cup. [29] For whoever eats and drinks without recognizing the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

Heb 13:11 *For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.*

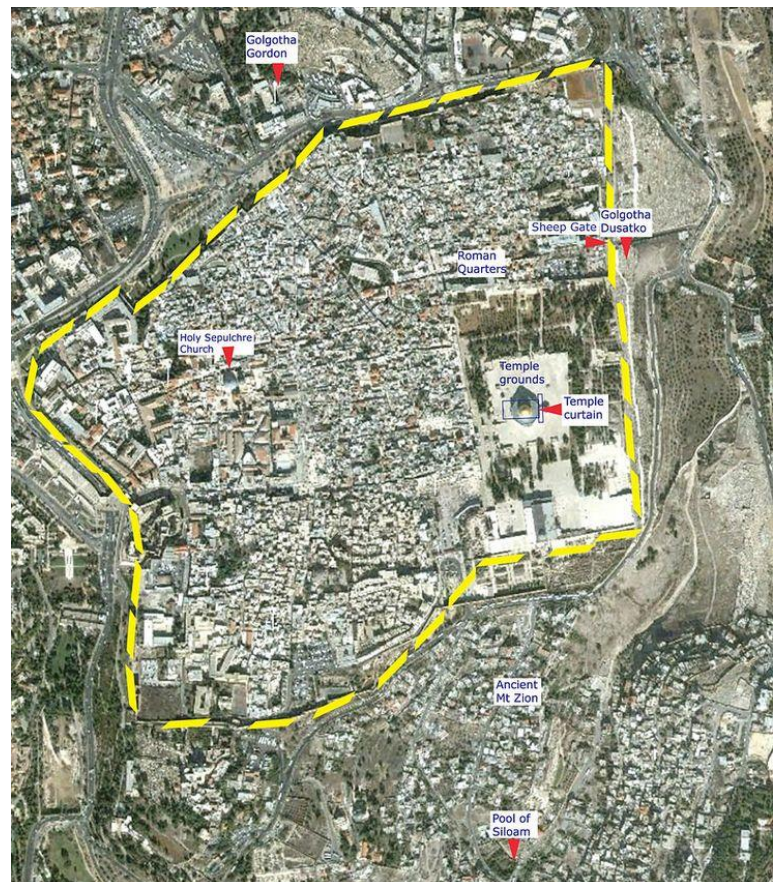
- **The sin offering, the goat that was offered, was burned outside of the camp, on the Day of Atonement.** It was burned completely outside of the camp because it was the sin offering. When Christ died it was for the fact that you and I are sinners. Not only do we commit sin, but we are also sinners by nature. He took our sins on Himself that He might give us a new nature.

Heb 13:12 *Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify* (set apart) *the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.*

- **Jesus was crucified outside of the walls of Jerusalem because He was a sin offering.** A sin offering was to be killed outside the city. Jesus was our sin offering. He paid the penalty for our sin!

Heb 13:13 *Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.*

- **That is, outside the camp of Judaism.** Let us go outside to Jesus. He is outside of framework of Judaism, The Levitical system. Christ is not to be found in the camp, in the world. We should be willing to regard ourselves as identified with the Lord Jesus, and to bear the same shame and reproaches which He did!
- **Bearing His reproach.** The early church was persecuted not only by Rome, but also by the Jews. Paul, the apostle, had more problems with the Jews than he did with the Romans. It was the Jews that were constantly raising up problems and difficulty for Paul, that is, those religious Jews, who had a form of godliness, but denied the power thereof.
- **Let us go forth outside the camp,** bearing His reproach! Figuratively, believers must join Him outside the camp of the world, no longer being a part of its unholy systems and practices. The



uncommitted Hebrews needed to take the bold step of leaving that system and being outside the camp of old covenant Israel.

Heb 13:14 *For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.*

- **The Christians were sort of looked down on, reproached.** They suffered as a minority group and often lost privileges.
- **We have no continuing city here, but we seek the one to come.** Paul said, (*Php 3:20-21*) *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.* It is clear that we have nothing permanent down here.

Heb 13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving (confessing) thanks to His name.*

- **Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God.** That is by Jesus Christ! God instituted the sacrifices. After a time, though they continued with the sacrifices, they had lost their meaning. God finally declared His displeasure, (*Isa 1:13*) *Bring no more futile sacrifices; ...I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.* (*Mat 15:8*) *'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.*
- **When David had sinned or transgressed in the issue of Bathsheeba,** when David prayed for forgiveness, he prayed that the Lord, according to His tender mercies, would blot out his transgressions. He said, a sin offering you wouldn't receive, or else I would give it. (*Psa 51:17*) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.* David didn't seek to bring a sin offering, but he brought to God a broken and a contrite heart!
- **Jeremiah speaks (Jer 33:11), of offering to God,** again in Jerusalem, the sacrifices of praise. After the destruction by the Babylonians, there were those who were in such despair, they said, never again will there be rejoicing in the streets, never again will there be the songs of gladness, the praises unto the Lord.
- **This is a sacrifice that we can offer, that even a high priest could not offer.** These Jewish believers were being lured back into Judaism because of the deep traditional bonds, even to the extent to go back to offer sacrifices again! However, once you have come to the knowledge and truth in Jesus, there remain no sacrifice for your sins! He is the One, complete sacrifice! Taking a lamb or a goat or whatever to the priests cannot do and will not do it. Yet, they were being drawn back by the deep-rooted traditions, into that system. Because it is in the heart to sacrifice to God, we want to give to God. It is a very fulfilling thing to believe that I have, actually, given to God!
- **As David once said, what shall I render unto the Lord for all of His benefits unto me?** We do feel an obligation. God has been so good to us! He has given us so much, that we do feel an obligation. I want to give something to God! But what can I give to God that He really needs? Well, if you put it that way, there is nothing that God needs. So, what does He want? He wants my praises. He wants me to love Him! To love Him with all my heart and soul! He wants me to acknowledge and be thankful for the things that He has done for me, the offering of thanksgiving, the offering of praise unto God!
- **But there are other times that praise is difficult.** And at that time, it is important that I praise Him, because I am to praise Him continually. But many times, our praise is by faith. I praise God because of the promises that He has given to me. He has promised that He would never leave me nor forsake me. (*2Co 1:20*) *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*
- **That is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.** (*Isa 57:19*) *"I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near," Says the LORD, "And I will heal him."* (*Hos 14:2b*) *Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.*

Heb 13:16 *But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

- **But another sacrifice, *But do not forget to do good and to share!*** That is to give, don't forget to give to those that are in need.
- ***For with such sacrifices God is well pleased. In the law, over and over again,*** God made provisions for the poor. He told the people to be mindful of the poor, not to take advantage of the poor. One of the worst sins of all, is a man who would take advantage of the poor. We are to communicate, to give, to open our hearts to give to the poor, and that kind of a sacrifice. Especially if it is a sacrifice, if I am just sharing what I have, though what I have may be meager. The sacrifices of praise coming from the lips of God's people please Him only when accompanied by loving action (**Isa 58:6-7**) *"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? [7] Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?"* How great!
- **It is amazing when travelling to countries that are really poor** and the people have so little, yet, how anxious they are to share what they have though what they have is so little. But they insist on giving and feeding you, though they really do not have enough food for themselves. It is always something that really leaves a deep impression and mark in one's heart! What does that say for us, the sacrifice of giving to those in need, is a sacrifice that is well pleasing to God?

Heb 13:17 *Obey those who rule* (leading, based on God's word, trying to do good for you) **over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**

- **Again, we were told to remember those who have the rule** (lead, command, consider) **over them.** We are told to *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.* God places those in a position as the pastor-teacher, which means they have a certain responsibility and accountability for you. When they report on you to the Lord, they want to do it with joy. Oh Lord, they are such a great group! They love the Word! They are intensely interested in You and in the Word. You know, oh, with joy! But then there are some, they say, Lord, I do not know. There is grief.
- **John said, (3Jn 1:4) *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*** There is no greater joy to a pastor than to know that the flock of God is walking in truth! So, we can give an account, we watch over your soul. For having certain responsibilities, and when we have to answer, we trust we will do it with joy.

Heb 13:18 *Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.*

- **Pray for us:** Here is one thing you can do for those that are the leaders in the Spiritual matters—pray! (**Eph 6:19**) *and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel!*
- **While we all need and should welcome the prayers of others, this is one part of the duty** which people owe to their ministers. Ministers need the prayers of the people; and the more earnestly the people pray for their ministers, the more benefit they may expect to reap from their ministry. They should pray that God would teach those who are to teach them, that he would make them vigilant, wise, zealous, and successful! That he would assist them in all their labors, support them under all their burdens, and strengthen them under all their temptations.
- **A good conscience has a respect to all God's commands and all our duty.** Those who have this **good conscience**, yet need the prayers of others. Conscientious ministers are public blessings, and deserve the prayers of the people.
- **We trust we have a good conscience.** We are persuaded that we have a conscience that not only acquits us of all fraud and sinister design, but assures us that in simplicity and godly sincerity we have

labored to promote the welfare of you and of all mankind. (*Act 23:1*) ***Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.***

- ***To live honorably - Willing in all things to conduct ourselves well, behaving*** with proper decency.

Heb 13:19 But I especially urge you to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

- **Now this is again one of the reasons why we believe that Paul was the writer**, because the writer is in prison. He tells them to remember those that are in bonds. Now he speaks of hoping to be restored to them sooner. Pray for us, that I might be restored to you sooner.
- **I especially urge you to do this:** This shows how seriously he regarded their prayers for him.
- ***That I may be restored to you the sooner:*** Adverse circumstances, over which he had no control, prevented the writer from being reunited with his readers. He knew that prayer could remove those obstacles.

Benediction

Heb 13:20 Now may the God of peace (5x in Bible, all in Pauline epistles) who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep (Shepherd - 9x; shepherd - 48x), through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Heb 13:21 make you complete (prepared, framed) in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- **Isn't that a beautiful benediction? He is wrapping up the letter now.** With this benediction, the *God of peace*, who brought again for the dead, our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep!
- ***That great Shepherd of the sheep. Jesus said, (Joh 10:11,14) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep and am known by My own.*** Jesus used the analogies in which He spoke of the shepherd who had counted ninety-nine into the fold. One was lost! How He went out and searched until He found the lost one and brought it in. He said rejoice with Me for the lost has been found!
- ***David said, the Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want! For He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.*** The Good Shepherd, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.
- ***Through the blood of the everlasting covenant! May He make you prepared, complete, mature, fully grown up.*** Back in chapter six, the writer is saying, therefore, leaving the first principles of the doctrines of Christ, repentance from dead works, laying on of hands and baptism, let us go on into full maturity. So here he is sort of closes the letter with this prayer for them to come into a full maturity. The very thing that Paul said, was the purpose of the church, in Ephesians, chapter four, for the perfecting or bringing into maturity, the saints, building up the body of Christ.
- ***May He make you fully complete in every good work to do His will, working in you!*** As Paul wrote, (*Php 2:13*) *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* Working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus the Messiah, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Final Greetings

Heb 13:22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

- **Now the last is just little words of exhortation, And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation,** That means, receive it, with open minds and warm hearts! Receive the word of exhortation.
- **For I have written to you in few words.** Now, Hebrews is one of the longest epistles in the New Testament. I would say he wrote it in quite a few words (considering the subject that he tackled – that Jesus better than all!), but he says, *a few words.*

Heb 13:23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see if he comes shortly.

- **Know that our brother Timothy.** Again, Paul's relationship with Timothy and the mention of Timothy here, as he is mentioned in other epistles, sort of puts Paul's fingerprint as the author of the letter.
- **That our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.** Timothy was probably in prison with Paul and was released before Paul, who indicates he is hoping to come shortly to see them also.

Heb 13:24 Greet all those who rule (lead) over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

- **Greet all those who rule over you.** They were told to remember those that have rule. To obey them and now Paul is saying, greet them, that have the rule over you.
- **And all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.** Paul was of course, in prison in Italy. This again, is another fingerprint of Paul on the book.

Heb 13:25 Grace be with you all. Amen.

- **That's Paul's always, emphasizing the grace of God**, under which He has given through the passing of the Old Covenant and instituting the New, through our superior Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! *May grace be with you all! Amen!*
- **What an appropriate ending for this epistle, documenting His grace continually working in you**, and with you, bringing forth the fruits of holiness, as the first fruits of glory. When the people of God have been conversing together by word or writing, it is good to part with prayer, desiring for each other, the continuance of the gracious presence of God, that they may meet together again in the world of praise.

Summary:

- **Jesus is better than angels; better than Moses; better than the Aaronic priesthood;** Of a better Covenant; Better than the Judaic system! Jesus is better! Jesus is better than anything! Jesus is better than everything! Jesus is better than better! Better, is insufficient to describe how much more wonderful and superior He is over everything! Never leave Him for anything else!
- **Lord Jesus, there is nothing better than You!**

CLOSING SONG:

GRAVES INTO GARDENS (Nothing is better than You!) Elevation worship/Brandon Lake (3:56/3:53)

I searched the world But it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise And treasures that fade
Are never enough Then You came along
And put me back together And every desire Is now satisfied
Here in Your love (Hey)
Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You (Oh, yes I know it's true)

I'm not afraid To show You my weakness
My failures and flaws Lord, You've seen 'em all
And You still call me friend 'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley There's not a place
Your mercy and grace Won't find me again
Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You (I know it's true)

Oh, there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You
Lord, there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing You give beauty for ashes You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can (2X)

You turn graves into garden You turn bones into armies You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can You're the only one who can.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over *Daniel Chapter 1!*