

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

The Supremacy of Christ:
In Example Heb 12:4-29

The Message so far...

- **JESUS BETTER IN REVELATION [1:1-4:13]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MEDIATION [4:14-7:28]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN MINISTRY [8:1-12:3]**
- **JESUS BETTER IN EXAMPLE— [12:4-29]**
 - Example in Discipline – 12:4-13
 - Duty and Dangers – 12:14-29
- **EXHORTATIONS TO LIFE IN CHRIST [13:1-25]**
 - Controlling Character/Behavior— 13:1-8
 - Warnings against false doctrine 13:9-16
 - Leaders and good works 13:17-25

From Warning to Exhortation

- Our Hearts are now ready for the calls to lifestyle:
 - Based on all we have, these issues should never be a problem
 - When they are, we need to come back to the “Better”
 - The blood of Jesus still is crying out to the world thru us...
 - Are we listening to what He has, and continues to say?
- Character/Behavior – 7 Marks of Christian Hearts
 1. Brotherly Love (*philadelphia*)
 - Binds us, causes us to show concern, encouragement
 - Note: Let it continue... Pres. Act. Imp.
 - Of all the things to list first, this one is essential
 - No others matter without it!
 - These were being done, always appropriate
 - Jn 13:34,35; 15:17; 1Pt 3:8; 1Th 4:9; Heb 6:10 (?)

Marks of Christian Character/Behavior

2. Hospitality (*philoxenia* 2x- Ro 12:13) (2)

- "Do not forget or neglect or refuse to extend hospitality to strangers [in the brotherhood]—being friendly, cordial and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously—for through it some have entertained angels without knowing it." Amplified Bible
- Gen 18, 19 – example... Ga 6:10; 1Ti 3:2; 5:10; Ti 1:8; 1Pt 4:9
- Open-home ministry – students, missionaries, pastors...

3. Prisoners – (*desmios*) to be in chains... (3)

- Remember them! (see 10:34)
- As if bound with them!?
- Paul called for this also 2Ti 1:16; Ep 6:19,20
- Christians in chains... we may see this very soon here...

Marks of Christian Character/Behavior

4. Marriage Intimacy (4)

- To be honored, timios, esteemed worthy, precious, of great price and especially dear
- undefiled, as in 7:26 of the priest, pure
- Adultery and fornicators... held so lightly in today's world
- 1Co 7:2-5; 1Th 4:4; Re 21:8