

Hebrews: The “Better” Life

EXHORTATIONS TO LIFE IN CHRIST

Heb 13:1-25

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]**
- **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

- Character/Behavior – 7 Marks of Christian Hearts
 1. Brotherly Love (*philadelphia*)
 2. Hospitality (*philoxenia* 2x- Ro 12:13)
 3. Prisoners – (*desmios*) to be in chains...
 4. Marriage Intimacy/Honor
- This beginning lays a foundation for all else ...
 - REMEMBER: these are based on all we have been given
 - Sabbath, High Priest, Better Sacrifice, Temple, Discipline
 - It is not about our work, but about our CHOICES/WILL!!
 - Kingdom Attitudes continue...

Marks of Christian Character/Behavior

5. Contentment vs. Coveting (5,6)

- *tropos*, conversation, lifestyle, deportment – attitude!
- *aphilarguros*, 2x, 1Ti 3:3, not loving money, avarice, greed
- Why is this so ignored in today's world?
- Why do Christians deny this aspect and seek “stuff” theology?
- Learning to be content with what we have... so freeing!
- NOTE: this promise often taken out of the context!!
- Be content **because** He will never leave you!
- If we have Jesus...? Mt 6:33; Lk 12:15; Ps 119:36; 1Ti 6:10; Ja 5:3

Marks of Christian Character/Behavior

6. Remember leaders (7)

- Make mention, be mindful, call/keep in mind
- *hegeomai*, of a governor, lead, rule, go before
- Spoken the word – note what leaders do...
- *mimeomai* – follow; Pres. Act. Imp. – see 1Th 5:12
- See how they finished their course... Heb 11, 12
- Keep on following the example of their faith...

7. Remember Jesus (8)

- The final focus always...
- Never changing in desire or passion for us
- Past present and future plan for us, in all things

Warnings: False Doctrine! (9-16)

- Why is it always this warning?
 - Mt 24:4; Ro 16:17ff; 2Co 11:11ff; Ga 1:6ff; Ep 4:14; 5:6; Co 2:8; 2Th 2:2; 1Ti 4:1ff; 6:3ff... so many warnings on this topic
- Let your heart be made strong by grace!
 - *bebaioo* – establish, confirm, make strong
 - Your emotions, attitudes, priorities...
 - Guard this above all!
- Hebrew rituals: abstaining from foods as means of grace
 - How many times have we seen this error?
 - Pharisaism rituals profit no one! (1Co 6:13)

False Doctrine Warnings

- Wrong sacrifices (10-11)
 - Bodies burned outside the camp
 - Blood brought into the sanctuary (*hagion*)
 - These things did not make anyone holy, and still does not
 - Voodoo, other blood rituals, seeking self justification
 - These did not satisfy the requirement
- Jesus the perfect sacrifice (12,13)
 - Sanctify the people – this is the goal and focus of Christ
 - Through His own Blood
 - Suffered outside the camp/city of Jerusalem
 - Only this perfectly fulfilled the type of the OT sacrifices