

# 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
  5. Contentment vs. Coveting (5,6)
  6. Remember leaders (7)
  7. Remember Jesus (8)
- Beware of false doctrine
  - Wrong sacrifices and focus...
  - Stay focused on Jesus' sacrifice and "go out"...

# Response to Him – how to avoid error

- "Let us keep on going out there to him." (13)
  - The choice is to leave ritual/ceremony and go to Jesus
  - Bearing the reproach of Jesus
  - If we choose Him/ His kingdom, reproach will come 1Ti 4:10
  - At the side of Christ is the power and the shame.. Lk 9:23
- Seek the new, coming City (14)
  - The earthy "Jerusalem's" are not our hope or destination
- Thru Jesus offer continually sacrifices of praise to God
  - Jn 14:6; 1Ti 2:5 He 7:25; 1Pe 2:5
- Do not neglect doing good & share (*koinonia*)
  - Mt 5:16; 1Ti 6:18
  - God is pleased...

# Final Marks – Leaders (17-25)

- From verse 7 – this is another way to stay on track...
- How should pastor's be honored/followed?
  - *peitho* – trust, have confidence
  - *hupeiko* - resist no longer, to give way, yield (of combatants)
- These commands seem hard to follow in today's churches...
  - Failures from “tele-evangelists”
  - Failures of pastors – moral/ethical/financial
  - Independence issues... American culture...
  - Is there still a proper response to shepherds?

Does the difference between the two words in verse 8 have any significance?

# Why/When leaders should be obeyed

- Watch over your souls (*agrupneo*), be watchful (see 1Pt 5:8)
  - wariness which results from self-control, a condition of moral, not mental alertness.
  - Lit. to seek after sleep, due to constant watching...
- They will give account (see Mt 12:36), render account
  - This is what keeps pastor's focused – they will answer to God
  - Your responsibility – 1 Jn 4:1-3 – test the spirit (human)
  - If you see a weakness, PRAY for him!!! (see 13:20; 1Pt 2:25)