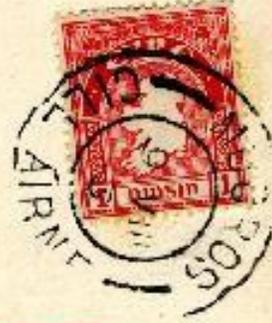


The Letter to the
Hebrews

Chapter Thirteen



**Sacrifices Pleasing
to God**

The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

- Contents are deep & challenging ...
Readers are:
 - **Reminded** of how blessed they are to have trusted in Christ
 - **Impressed** with the superiority of Christ
 - **Warned** of the dangers of apostasy



The Book of Hebrews: Outline

▪ Exhortations in the Epistle:

- Let us fear **4:1**
- Let us therefore give diligence **4:11**
- Let us hold fast our confession **4:14; 10:23**
- Let us draw near ... to the throne of grace **4:16**
- Let us press on to perfection **6:1**
- Let us draw near **10:22**
- Let us consider one another **10:24**
- Let us ... lay aside every weight **12:1**
- Let us run the race **12:1**
- Let us have grace **12:28**
- Let us therefore go forth unto Him **13:13**
- Let us offer up sacrifice of praise **13:15**



Endure in Brotherly Love

(Ch. 13: 1-3)

- Keep loving each other like family
- Don't neglect hospitality (warmth, friendliness)
 - "generosity by entertaining in one's home"
- Visit me and Gary in jail
- Stand with those persecuted for their faith
- **Share** in their physical suffering
 - You too are subject to physical suffering
 - and
 - You both are part of the same spiritual "body"

Honor Marriage

[Ch. 13:4]

- Honor marriage
- Have marriages worthy of honor by others
 - Part of letting marriage be held in honor among all
- Honor the sanctity of God's blessing of physical intimacy within marriage **exclusively**
 - Undefined - not debased, free from what damages it
- God will judge those who disregard the sanctity of marriage and pervert His arrangement
 - Sexually immoral / fornicators - sex outside of marriage
 - Adultery – fornication that involves a married person

Decide That Christ is Enough

(Ch. 13:5-6)

- **Avoid the love of money**
 - “not dominated (over-influenced) by the desire for financial gain; non-materialistic”
- **Be content**
 - Persecution will often come at a literal cost
- **He said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”**
 - That should be enough
- ***So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”***

Move Forward Looking Back

[Ch. 13:7-9]

- Remember your [past] leaders / *“those who led you”*
- Consider more than just their words
 - the results of their way of life
- Imitate their faithful lives

Truth doesn't change because Christ doesn't change!

DO NOT BE LED AWAY BY STRANGE TEACHINGS!

- Instruction from God's word does not expire!
- Constant threat of false doctrines that will lead us away!
- “Strange” – inconsistent, foreign, coming from outside

Go to Him Outside the Camp

[Ch. 13:9-16]

- *“the teaching foreign to the Christian faith was that of foods having some spiritual value or abstinence from them some saving virtue.”* – King
 - Clinging to parts of the Law of Moses frustrates grace
 - Dietary restriction had not eternally benefitted the Jews
- **We have a better “*altar*” distinct from the “tent”**
- **Our “sin offering” suffered “*outside the gate*”**
 - Share His reproach, rebuke and shame
- **Through Him, always offer sacrifices that please God**
 - Praise God from our lips, do good and be generous

Endure by Following Your Leaders

[Ch. 13:17]

- **Obey your elders and submit to your elders**
 - *leaders that are “keeping watch over your souls”*
- **Elders will give an account for their shepherding**
- **You will give an account for how hard you make it**
 - Your obedience
 - Your submission
- **Are you and/or your family a “joy” to shepherd?**
- **Or, does your “feedback” cause “groaning”**
- **If so... that’s not going to work out well for you**

We are Equipped to Endure

(Ch. 13:18-21)

- Requests prayers for him and **preparation** for us
- Remember what God has done and is doing...
 - *“who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant”*
 - *“equip you with everything good”*
- Remember how we ought to respond...
 - *“that you may do his will”*
 - *“that which is pleasing in His sight”*
- He accomplishes His work in us *“through Christ Jesus”*

Endure this “Brief” Exhortation (Ch. 13:22-25)

- Consider and think about everything that has been said
We have a **better** high priest, a **better** covenant, with a **better** tabernacle and a **better** sacrifice...

We have a better **Hope**

*“In these last days He has spoken to us by **His Son...**” (1:2)*

“... to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (13:21)

Don't give up,

Endure by faith

That's the message of the **Book of Hebrews**

