

# HEBREWS 13

## THE LORD IS MY HELPER

This last chapter of Hebrews reads like an employee manual for believers. There are short but powerful exhortations like: Do this... Don't do that... Never forget this... Always remember this... We begin with five bits of wise counsel...

### NUMBER ONE:

**Hebrews 13:1** Let brotherly love (**Philadelphia**) continue.

- Do you have a relative that you see only once every couple of years?
  - Hopefully, that is NOT because you want it that way...
- It is hard to feel close to someone you rarely see, isn't it?
  - Today is a really great example of how to get closer to people. Show up! Sit down, talk, ask how you can pray for each other. Pass a tray of cookies. Have a glass of iced tea, pour a cup of coffee...
    - Listen... Be heard... Be seen! WHY?
- To let brotherly love, Philadelphia love continue!

### ANGELIC GUEST

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels. (*Messengers...Ministers...*)

- We could probably spend time sharing stories of possible angel sightings, and perhaps we will over some coffee afterwards...
  - Here's mine... During college, my brother Dave and I were digging ditches for a company that built gas stations.. On one particular job, a homeless guy would sit across the street from us as we ate our lunch every day. After a couple of days, Dave made two sandwiches and walked across the street to share one with the homeless guy. When he returned I complimented him on his generosity. When we looked across the street, the guy was gone... and never reappeared. Angel? Dead of food poisoning? ???

- Lesson – Be hospitable CCSV. You never know if you are showing kindness to a person living on the streets or an angel who is visiting from Paradise.
  - Let brotherly love continue!

## PRISON OUTREACH

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

- The early church suffered SO much persecution... To NOT bow down and worship the leader of the country was considered treason, and you could be easily arrested, or worse for NOT bowing to Evil men.
  - We enjoy freedom to worship in America, though we got shut down for a year and a half, didn't we?
    - We should do two things, I think... (1) Pray for the persecuted Christians around the world today... (2) VOTE! Vote for leaders who believe in the Bible, who believe in God, who believe that freedom to worship is more important than freedom to shop.
- The Apostle Paul wrote a few of his letters from prison cells. We call them the prison Epistles... Paul appreciated being prayed for, and we should be praying for the Believers in prison today for following Jesus!

## THE ACT OF MARRIAGE

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

- **How would you say the opposite of this injunction...**
  - Look, If you want to share a bed... Get married. Once married, Share your bed with one another! What married people do in bed IS HONORABLE! AND... really fun! ENJOY!

## #5 BE CONTENT

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU." **I LOVE THIS VERSE!**

6 So we may boldly say: "**THE LORD IS MY HELPER**; I WILL NOT FEAR. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"

- Imagine the Chinese Christian saying this verse from his prison cell...  
Imagine an Iranian Pastor quoting this verse from his prison cell...  
Persecuted believers in Yemen, Nigeria, Haiti, Afghanistan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, quoting this verse – **THE LORD IS MY HELPER!**

## RESPECT THE PULPIT

7 Remember those who rule (*Spiritually*) over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. **NLT - Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.**

- Chuck Smith taught that this verse has MORE to do with the Pastor's responsibility than with his authority. Bible teachers have a responsibility to not ONLY teach well, but to live well.
  - Noah lived out his faith by doing what? His was a living sermon, AND SO IS MINE!
    - Who else should be a living testimony?
  - Make sure and remember the people who have been a blessing to you over the years. THANK them if you can, pray for them for sure!
- I have a long list of Sunday School teachers, youth directors, College Prof's and Pastors that I owe a great deal of thanks to.
  - I should probably fire off a few thank you emails this week. How about you?

## WHO IS UNCHANGEABLE?

8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- Like a rock-solid foundation, JESUS never changes.
  - In a world that is changing faster than ever... **Jesus never changes.**
    - My schoolteacher niece heard in a schoolteacher training recently that the careers that most of her elementary school kids will spend their lives in... Have NOT been created yet.

- Technology that is so futuristic, we struggle to imagine it...
- Artificial Intelligence that can replace and imitate human beings... Doing everything from writing college thesis's to brewing your favorite Starbuck's coffee...
  - But, WHO NEVER CHANGES?
  - **Malachi 3:6** "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change;
    - His love, His faithfulness and His presence will never change!!!
      - THAT is a relief to me! **SO...**

## AVOID FAD THEOLOGY

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.

(*Meaning novel or entertaining*)

- **COURSON** - On the Cross, Jesus didn't say, "To be continued." He said, "It is *finished*." Sacrifices, self-effort, works of the flesh, or anything else that diminishes this is a strange doctrine.
  - CCSV, Let us be cautious and careful to NOT add or subtract anything from the salvation that was paid for on the cross of Jesus Christ.
  - **Chuck Smith** – God has nothing new to reveal. Everything we need for eternal life was accomplished and acquired on the cross. Nothing was hidden from view on that cross... AND NOTHING IS HIDDEN NOW!
    - No dietary restrictions... No amount of meditation... No "Higher knowledge" is going to mean a thing to God when you stand before Him.... ONLY knowing His Son, and His Son knowing you... Will save you. **And His grace alone!!! Listen,**

9b 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.

- In Paul's day the church struggled with people who wanted to blend the gospel with Judaism...
  - God will accept no blended gospel friends. His Son alone, His book alone, His Glory alone is what He demands.
- The church is HIS bride and heaven is HIS home, and He will bring His bride to HIS home when He is good and ready... Just be sure that YOU are

ready too.

## OUTSIDE OF THE CAMP

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

- IE, Jesus, and His sacrifice is better than religious rituals.
  - **John 6:48** I am the bread of life. JESUS
- Jesus was even born in the town named the house of bread.
  - He was the Last and best “Lamb of God.”

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.

- Speaking of the sin offering...

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

- Fellow believers, don't you feel more and more NOT at home in this world? So many of our leaders are farther and farther away from the righteousness of God's Word.
  - They call themselves religious, but then want to indoctrinate our children to perverted things.
    - Why do SO MANY politicians want to talk to our children about sexual things?
  - We DO hope and yearn for that City of God from heaven to come down and restore Godliness to our earth.
    - BUT... the next even on God's timeline will be the gathering of His church in the air... **THEREFORE...**

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **I LOVE THAT CCSV LOVES TO WORSHIP AND GIVE!**

## THE JOYFUL PASTOR

17 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.

- *This is just a little hint from Paul to encourage your Pastors...*

## PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES AND MINISTERS

18 **Pray for us**; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. 19 But I especially urge *you* to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

## BENEDICTION

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great **Shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete 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.

## FINAL GREETINGS

22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with **(IE, receive)** the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. 23 Know that *our* brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

## CIAO FROM ITALY

24 Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 **Grace be with you all. Amen.**

NEXT TIME - James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,