

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 8) 26 Oct.....Hebrews 8:1-13.....Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov .....Hebrews 9:1-28.....The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov .....Hebrews 10-11.....Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov .....Hebrews 12:1-17.....The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov .....Hebrews 12:18-29.....A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov .....Hebrews 13:1-25.....Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION

- We wrap up this great book with looking at more street-level activities for us to boldly and successfully live out our faith

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 13:1-8	<p><b>The Changeless Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>v1.</b> Priority #1 – Love (“<i>philedelphia</i>” or brotherly love) for one another MUST be evident and MUST be on-going</li> <li>• <b>v2.</b> Hospitality to Angels? Recall how Abram entertained some angels prior to Isaac’s birth and Sodom’s destruction                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The intent here is not to convey that Angels still make random visits, but we need to treat strangers as family</li> <li>♦ WARNING – But, this does not include taking in evil-doers (cf 2John 1:10-11; Rom 16:17; 2Thes 3:14)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>v3.</b> Remember Prisoners and the “ill-treated” – The intent was to meet the needs of fellow Christians who were imprisoned for their faith, and not necessarily of evil-doers                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ HOWEVER, many jail ministries have led countless prisoners to the Lord, such as Good News Jail and Prison Ministry and Prison Ministry International</li> <li>♦ Who are the “ill-treated”? – Possibly the handicapped, elderly, disfigured, and other weak members of society, or possibly those who are going through persecution (e.g., Hobby Lobby, Chick-Filet, and other recent court cases)</li> <li>♦ How can we bring comfort to the downtrodden?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>v4.</b> How can we hold marriage in honor? If we Christians do not hold marriage in honor then how will the world know what to do? <b>REMEMBER – Marriage is only defined in the Bible</b></li> <li>• vv5-6. Free from Greed. All sin is because we want more stuff, or we want things done our way. We need to be SELFLESS, not SELFISH                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The author quotes from Deut 31 and Psalms 118, which shows the relevancy of the OT and the unchanging character of God to look after and embolden His people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. We are to imitate the faith of those who faithfully lead us - HOW do we “remember” these faithful servants?</li> <li>• v8. “<i>Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today, Forever</i>” - BUT, this does not mean that God doesn’t change His ways from one generation to another                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider this – We no longer have prophets and apostles, and we no longer have miraculous gifts of the Spirit</li> <li>♦ Yet, character-wise, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is still the same – God is still eternal, still a God of Love, of Righteousness, and Justice &amp; Mercy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
The Sanctity of Marriage	<p>“The divorce revolution has done far more harm to marriage than same-sex marriage will ever do” – Albert Mohler, 2014</p> <p><b>Morality Continues to Spiral Downward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay marriage is now legal in 35 states</li> <li>• Cohabitation without marriage is at a record high</li> <li>• Divorce &amp; remarriage remains a problem in society &amp; church</li> <li>• Pornography &amp; prostitution is a multi-billion dollar industry</li> <li>• Human trafficking continues to get worse each yr</li> </ul> <p><b>So, What Can the Church Do About This Dilemma?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Church needs to change its cavalier position on divorce &amp; remarriage (Adultery is our Jezebel) ..... Rev 2:18-29</li> <li>2. Seek marriage reconciliation, not divorce ..... 1Cor 7:11</li> <li>3. Say NO to remarrying of divorcees ..... 1Cor 7:11</li> <li>4. Say NO to pastors, elders, &amp; deacons who are divorced or who married a divorcee (higher standards for leaders call for them to be “beyond reproach”).....Mat 5:32; 1Tim 3:2, 10</li> </ol>

Passage	Comments
13:9-14	<p><b>Where is our Focus?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv9-10. Strange teachings. In this context these early Jewish Christians still struggled with OT dietary restrictions                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ BUT, how are we strengthened by Grace and how is it good for the heart? Consider this, once we comprehend the truth of Scripture and we act on it, we grow spiritually – which is good for the heart/soul/mind – the whole person</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv11-13. How do we “<i>go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His approach</i>”? Consider this – we need to deny ourselves and pick up our cross (our responsibilities in life) and follow Christ wherever He takes us ..... Luke 9:23</li> <li>• v14. “<i>Seek the city which is to come</i>”. We need to be Christ-focused (12:2) and “<i>seek the bread that leads to eternal life</i>”</li> </ul>
13:15-19	<p><b>God-pleasing Sacrifices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v15. What is the “sacrifice of praise to God”? Consider Psalms 107:21-22; 116:17 – In essence, we need to declare God’s goodness and greatness to all men while we live a holy &amp; righteous life, which is our reasonable sacrifice.... Rom 12:1</li> <li>• v16. Other sacrifices that cost us time, effort, and money is to do good to others – and this is pleasing to God</li> <li>• v17. The context here is the leaders are good ones, but what if they were bad or weak leaders? Do we obey them then?</li> <li>• vv18-19. “<i>Pray for us</i>” – Even apostles needed to be prayed for. How much more do we need to uplift our ministers</li> </ul>
13:20-25	<p><b>Wrap Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v21. Another good way to pray – that God would equip us in every good thing to do His will and to please Him for the glory of Christ. This could include bold speech (Eph 6:19); clarity in speech (Col 4:4); and powerful speech (1Cor 2:4)</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- The author told us in 13:22 that he wrote a brief letter for the purpose of exhortation and we are to take everything he wrote seriously (“bear with this”).
- The best way to take Hebrews seriously is to live out our witness in a bold manner. After all, Christ has our back as he intercedes for us as our high priest, we are saved to the uttermost, and His kingdom is unshakeable. Therefore, what do we have to fear?

**NEXT WEEK: Esther 1-3.** Who stands a better chance to serve God to the fullest?

- ♦ Someone living the life of luxury? ..... e.g., Job
- ♦ A wheelchair-bound quadriplegic? ..... e.g., Joni Eareckson Tada
- ♦ An impoverished widow?..... e.g., Widow w/ 2 mites
- ♦ An unwilling sex slave locked in a harem.....e.g., Esther
- No matter what situation we find ourselves in, God can use us to accomplish His will – if we are willing to be used

