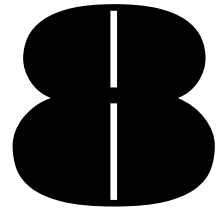




The Message of Hebrews
ENDURANCE



OUTSIDE THE CAMP Hebrews 13

Hebrews 13

Concluding Exhortations

¹ Keep on loving each other as brothers. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp,

bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. ¹⁹ I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

²⁰ May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

²² Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.

²³ I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all God’s people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

²⁵ Grace be with you all.

Think back through some of the big themes we have seen through Hebrews:

- persevering under hardship
- Not turning back to Jewish ways
- Not giving up on Jesus
- The High Priesthood of Jesus
- Supporting one another

Highlight these ideas as they re-appear in this final chapter of the letter. Circle or colour each theme to make it stand out.

From verse 7, what has the role of their leaders been?

What expectation does this set for Christian leaders today?

What should we expect of the lives of Christian leaders? (v7)

What competing views are highlighted in verse 9?

How does verse 9 correct our thinking about 'sacraments' like the Lord's Supper? Can any kind of ceremony bring us closer to God?

From verses 11 to 13, how have we drawn near to God?

What might this require in terms of unpopularity or persecution?

What does it mean to offer God a sacrifice of praise THROUGH JESUS?

What sacrifices are now expected from us?

Leaders are mentioned regularly in this closing chapter. We've seen how leaders should teach and live. **But how should they be followed?**

According to verse 17, how should you respond to your Christian leaders?

Who must they give an account to?

What would make Christian leadership burdensome?

What should you be praying for your leaders? (v18)

Final thoughts about our mystery writer...

Many people assume the letter to the Hebrews was written by Paul, the author of most of the other New Testament letters. But it doesn't claim to be! In fact, it's unsigned.

Detective work...

What can you deduce about the writer from verse 23?

Where is he writing from (v24)?

The author's identity has been debated for centuries. It's not Paul—he would usually refer to Timothy as his "son" rather than his brother. Instead, it's more likely that it's one of Paul's close disciples... it's not Timothy, because he calls Timothy 'our brother.' So maybe it's Titus? Maybe it's Silas? Maybe it's Aquila? It's a mystery! But whoever it is, he's keen to exhort and encourage these Hebrews—and us—to keep trusting Jesus, and never turn back!