

Hebrews: Growing Deeper with God

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Hebrews 13:1-6

I. Introduction

II. Christian Living – Love One Another (v.1-3)

v.1 – “Let brotherly love continue...”

Christian brotherhood, therefore, is essentially brotherhood in Christ. If our brotherhood derives from Christ, so also does our love as brothers. His infinite love for us is the source and stimulus of our love for each other.

Continue means to remain, to abide, to last, to endure, to survive, to live, not to perish.

v.2 – “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Hospitality to strangers is literally love for strangers or foreigners and thus conveys the meaning of hospitality or kindness to strangers.

v.3 – “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated since you also are in the body.”

Remember is in the present imperative calling for the readers to continually keep the prisoners in mind (in context very likely the ones who had been imprisoned for their faith in Messiah).

III. Christian Living – Marriage Is Honorable (v.4)

v.4 – “Let marriage be held in honor among all...”

Marriage is to be held in honor among all. This tells you the high and holy value God Himself places on His institution of marriage.

Honor literally speaks of things which are costly, precious or valuable or of persons who are "precious" and thus are highly regarded, esteemed or honored.

v.4b – “and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

Undefiled means without contamination, unpolluted, untainted, unstained, unsoiled, without uncleanness or impurity.

These two sexually related sins are distinguished as follows and thus leave no reader relieved of the obligation to follow the charge in Hebrews 13:4...

Pornos = Unmarried & impure

Moichos = Married & impure

God is serious about sexual purity--very serious. You may fool around with illicit sex, you may fool around outside your marriage, and you may get away with it from the judgment of man standpoint, but you'll never get away with it from the judgment of God.

When Christians are immoral, the immediate consequences may even be worse, because the testimony of the gospel is polluted.

IV. Christian Living – Be Content (v.5,6)

v.5 – “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have”

The antidote for the love of money is contentment, which comes from trusting in God's promised provision. Contentment must be cultivated. Like a beautiful garden, contentment does not grow without deliberate aim and effort.

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.” Philippians 4:11

What is Christian contentment? Jeremy Burroughs defines it as *“that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”*

v.5b – “for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,”

Never - This is a double negative - Never, ever is the idea. He could not state this point any stronger!

Leave refers to the fact that God will not abandon us. He is not going to leave us, fail to uphold us or let us sink!

Forsake means to abandon, desert, or leave in straits. It speaks of forsaking someone in a state of defeat or helplessness, even in midst of hostile circumstances.

v.6 – “so we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not fear, what can man do to me?”

Confidently means to have confidence or certainty in a matter. In the present context the writer is saying we continually (present tense) being full of courage, can act boldly in speaking or claiming the OT promise that Jehovah is our Helper.

Are you confident of this wonderful truth beloved?

Say - To whom do we say the following? Our confidence in God gives us the courage to say to people **that He is our Helper.**

Do I really grasp the significance and practical import of this awesome truth?

V. Conclusion