

The Book of Hebrews

Sunday, September 6, 2015

Hebrews 13:7-25

I. Introduction

To avoid being carried away by false teaching, imitate the faith of godly leaders and hold firmly to the centrality of Jesus Christ, His sacrificial death, and the promise of heaven.

II. Remember Your Leaders and Obey Them (v.7,17)

Imitate means to follow, especially to follow an example, a good example and not follow a bad example. Mimeomai is found only here and in:

"For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you" 2 Thessalonians 3:7

"It was not because we do not have that right, but to give in ourselves as example to imitate." 2 Thessalonians 3:9

"Beloved, do not imitate evil, but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God." 3 John 11

Faith - (pistis) is synonymous with trust or belief and is the conviction of the truth of anything, but in Scripture usually speaks of belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things.

Obey and Submit – church leaders are called to watch over their flock as those who must give account before God. And in the same verse, members of the congregation are reminded of their responsibility to their leaders. They are to be submissive to them and open to their correction. Their leaders will then have joy rather than grief as they seek to be faithful in carrying out their God-appointed duties.

III. Remember Jesus and His Sacrifice (v.8-13)

In a world of constant change, we can trust the unchanging Christ. To face life's changes, look to the unchanging God.

False teaching is a perpetual danger for God's people. The author warns, "Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings"

In keeping with Old Testament law (Nu 15:36) and Roman practice, executions took place outside the city. Therefore Jesus went out of Jerusalem to the place of execution.

Ex 29:14 reads, *"But the flesh of the bull and its hide and its refuse, you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering."*

IV. Remember His Coming (v.14-16)

Seek means to search or look for people (Jesus). The present tense depicts this as our lifestyle!

The Christian's sacrifice of praise is to be offered continually. It is not to be a fair-weather offering, but an offering in every circumstance.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

v.16 - Serving others is a way of thanking God and remembering His coming!

V. Remember to Pray as We Pray (v.18-21)

Pray for your leaders, that they will stand firm and maintain a good conscience before God, who knows the heart.

Pray for leaders to be delivered from circumstances or difficulties beyond their control.

Conscience literally means a "knowing with", a co-knowledge with oneself or a being of one's own witness in the sense that one's own conscience "takes the stand" as the chief witness, testifying either to one's innocence or guilt. It describes the witness borne to one's conduct by that faculty by which we apprehend the will of God.

VI. Conclusion