

Hebrews

Hebrews 13:1-17

Exhortation to Christian Duties

Hebrews 13:18-25

Farewell

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Social duties

- “Let Love of brothers and sisters continue”
 - Kindness, sympathy, helpfulness
 - Not just sentimentality
 - Brotherly love may be costly (1 John 3:16-18)
- “...Continue” – there was a danger it may cease
 - In times of persecution, it is easy for one to overlook a brothers needs in order to avoid suffering ourselves

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

Social Duties

- Hospitality for local and travelling brethren
 - Incumbent upon all Christians
 - Angels may visit
 - Abraham, Lot, Gideon, and Manoah (Sampson's father)
- Remember the prisoners
 - More than just think about them
 - Providing whatever is allowed and needed
 - As if you were the one in prison
 - 1 Corinthians 12:26

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Social Duties

- “*Marriage is to be held* in honor among all...”
 - We are exhorted to fidelity and purity in our marriage relationship – both men and women
- “...and the marriage bed undefiled”
 - Sexual intercourse is to be between one man and one woman in a marriage relationship
 - A novel view in the first century
- “For God will judge fornicators and adulterers.”
 - They may not get caught on earth but God knows

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Social Duties

- Contentment

- Avoid covetousness (love of money)
 - Be satisfied with our condition – not in some hoped for wealth, but in the things at hand and in HIS COMPANIONSHIP
 - Christians should find security in God and not in anything this world has to offer
 - God will never desert or abandon Christians
 - Deut 31:6,8 Joshua 1:5

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Social Duties

- Contentment

- Knowing God cares allows us to confidently say:

- THE LORD IS MY HELPER

- The believer COUNTS on the Lord's assistance

- I WILL NOT BE AFRAID

- The believer has no reason to fear

- WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?

- Fainthearted Jews tempted to leave Christ warned

- Philippians 1:21

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious Duties

- Imitate the faith of former leaders

- “Remember...” - the apostles, Stephen, James, John the Baptist and other faithful preachers who led in the years leading up to this letter.
 - “Who spoke the word of God to you”
 - Not an invention of man but divinely given
 - “Consider the result of their way of life”
 - They died, many were killed, but now have their reward

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious Duties

- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever”
- Whether we link this statement with the previous or the next it tells us the true nature of our mediator
 - If with v 7 then what Jesus did for the past faithful, He will do for you if you are faithful.
 - If with v 9 then a reason why our doctrine of Him should never change

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious duties

- Be unwavering in teachings of Christianity

- Christians are to have fixed and settled points of belief

- Grace – not foods – a reference to Jewish dietary laws

- Contrary to Jewish taunts about no dietary laws, no alter no sacrifices , WE HAVE AN ALTER! CHRIST JESUS!

- Jews may NOT eat from the alter of JESUS – only Christians

- Jesus died “outside the camp”

- ALL may partake of the TRUE sin offering – through Jesus

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious duties

- Be unwavering in the teachings of Christ

- We must bear His reproach and go to Him outside the gate (we are not born into Christianity)
 - Christ is outside the camp of Judaism that refused to acknowledge Him as the Messiah – Forsake Judaism!
 - We seek a BETTER city, not one of ancestral traditions and elaborate rituals, but of simple Christianity
 - Christians DO have sacrifice to offer – PRAISE to GOD

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious Duties

- Benevolence encouraged

- Two more sacrifices Christians may offer

- Doing Good – We honor God with our substance by being helpful to brethren

- Sharing – We honor God by sharing/fellowship

- Does the Christian pondering Judaism wonder what would be lost if they forsake the assembling with others?

- How can God be pleased WITHOUT this sacrifice?

Exhortation to perform our Christian duties

- Religious Duties

- Obedience and submission to spiritual leaders
 - Now we discuss current – not former – leaders
 - Habitual submission to their teaching of the oracles of God – yielding contrary opinions in favor of their guidance.
 - Spiritually beneficial watchfulness
 - They will give an account at final judgement – an **awesome** responsibility
 - With joy, not grief, to avoid unhelpfulness

Conclusion: Instructions and greetings

- Request for prayer

- “Pray for us”

- The reader know who the writer is, even if we today do not. The writer is asking for prayers for himself and his associates and gives reasons why they should pray for them:

- “we are sure that we have a good conscience”

- Their conscience is not pricked by false conduct

- “desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things”

- A firm determination to behave honorably

Conclusion: Instructions and greetings

- A prayer for the readers
 - “Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *that is*, Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Conclusion: Instructions and greetings

- Exhortation to heed what was just read
 - “I urge you brethren...”
 - Some strong things have been said in this letter, so it's possible not all readers will respond well.
 - Be patient and listen. Mull this letter over. Think on the things of God and his great love for us.
 - This letter's length pails in comparison to the weightiness of the theme.

Conclusion: Instructions and greetings

- Information about Timothy
 - The writer gives information about Timothy (most likely Paul's companion in Christ) to the reader.
 - Timothy has been released – from imprisonment, or from duties with some other church?
 - If Timothy comes to see the writer, he hopes the two of them can come to visit the readers.
 - Is the writer imprisoned? Unable to travel alone due to illness or infirmity?

Conclusion: Instructions and greetings

- Final Greetings

- "Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. Grace be with you all."

- WE ARE UNDER GRACE NOT LAW

- The writer's final words remind the reader of the most precious thing they will give up if they indeed leave Christ for Judaism.

Thanks to all who participated

- Dean and I are grateful for the participation in and encouragement throughout our study of the book of Hebrews.
- Stay tuned for a study Hermeneutics (how to interpret the bible) led by Dean Crews on Wednesday nights.