

A few moments ago we read Hebrews 13 in its entirety. I would like to say a few things about this chapter, bringing the series on Hebrews to a conclusion. The book of Hebrews has covered the whole history of the world, from the eternal decree which made the Son of God the Prophet, Priest, and King of our redemption, to the rending of the flesh of Jesus Christ by which the veil that separates us from God is removed and we have access into the very throne room of God, the temple in heaven, to our coming to the heavenly Zion, to the eternal rest of the saints in their inheritance in Heaven where nothing can be shaken.

But in this last chapter he reminds us, that no matter how glorious is our prospects in eternity, no matter how glorious in heaven will be the inheritance of the saints in Jesus Christ, no matter how exalted our eternal state after the resurrection from the dead, the faith is to be lived on this earth. Faith must have legs on the earth, for we are not in heaven yet. There is plenty for us to do on this earth before we receive our inheritance. I see three major themes in this chapter that intertwine in the closing remarks to the Hebrew Christians: The church is to be characterized by brotherly love. It is to continue. In a true and living church, brotherly love is present, for where Christ is, His love is manifest. 1. Brotherly love requires goodness; 2. Brotherly love requires order; 3. Brotherly love requires covenant.

- I. Brotherly love requires with goodness. This is indicted by several exhortations:
 - A. Be good to all men, beginning with strangers: those you don't know.
 - B. Be good to those who suffer for Christ's sake; remember them in your prayers, your giving, your compassion, knowing your bond with them, as in one body.
 - C. Be good in that closest of all bonds: marriage. Two sins:
 1. Despising marriage as something inconvenient or unclean. –not good for man to live alone.
 2. Living in sexual immorality and lawlessness.
 - D. Be good in the affairs of the world: no covetousness; being content, for the kingdom is not meat and drink
 - E. Be good in your heart, for faith will cast out fear. Vs. 6
- II. Brotherly love requires order. There are several things here:
 - A. Remember those that have the rule over you: vs. 7
 1. They are to preached the eternal message of Jesus Christ, and are to be highly esteemed because of this.
 2. They speak of the altar outside the camp of Israel, for Christ was not offered on a Jewish altar, but suffered as one accursed of God.
 3. They speak of the blood that sanctifies the people of God. We are to follow them outside the camp, leaving behind Moses and Aaron and David, for Jesus is our Prophet, Priest, and King.
 4. Here we have no continuing city; ours is yet to come.
 5. We have the order of Moses, and have gone out to Christ into His order, as we shall see.
 6. Our sacrifices are of the soul and spirit; vs. 15,16: praise to God and goodness to men. Vs. 15,16.
 - B. Obey them, vs. 18-19, for God has prescribed an order for His church, just as He did for Israel. This is so we will live at peace with each other. We have spoken of this before.
 1. A church of Jesus Christ has elders and deacons and ministers and an order to settle disputes and administer the things of the Gospel.
 2. We are to pray for them. Vs.19
 3. Those who rule are to live in good conscience, willing to live honestly; those under their rule are to obey.
 - C. Salute them. Vs. 24. "Salute" means to "draw them close to you." To welcome and embrace them.
- III. Brotherly love requires covenant.
 - A. The power of God is manifest in the blood of the everlasting covenant.
 1. The preaching of the cross is the power of God to salvation.
 2. It is the covenant that brought Christ from the dead by the power of God.
 - B. It is the blood of the covenant that makes the people of God perfect.
 1. I quote again Hebrews 10:15-25 Listen carefully and let the words penetrate your hearts:

"Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;" (Heb 10:15-20 AV)
 2. This is necessary before we can do the things that follow: [verses 21-25]

C. It is the new testament in the blood of Christ that brings to us the Holy Spirit that will:

1. “Make us perfect in every good work to do his will”
2. Will work in us “that which is well pleasing in His sight.”
3. Work “through Jesus Christ.”
4. For Jesus Christ is to be glorified “forever and ever.”

D. We are therefore to “suffer the word of exhortation,” verse 22.

Application:

1. Without brotherly kindness or love, godliness has no legs on the earth.
2. This is the reason that Peter exhorts us to add brotherly kindness to godliness.
3. No amount of brother love can produce godliness, for godliness is the work of the Holy Spirit in terms of the everlasting covenant in the blood of Christ, but godliness will always have the legs of brotherly love upon the earth.

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.