

Series: Hebrews

Lesson #: 68

Title: A Good Thing

Scripture: Hebrews 13: 9

Date: 3-01-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

Hebrews 13: 9: Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Three key words

1. Heart

2. Established

3. Grace

A. First, (v9) It is a good thing that...the HEART...be established with grace.

1. The various and strange teachings of man go only as far as the head and the hand.
 - Therefore their teachings appeal and apply to only the things a sinner can do himself--they apply to the intellect to make men feel smarter than other men therefore safer or saved.
 - Man's doctrine tickles the ears, looks good to the eyes and satisfies only the belly--that is, man's teaching makes us proud in ourselves--that is the only teaching that the natural man will receive.
2. God teaches in power, in Spirit, in the HEART--the inner man, the heart he has made new--
 - God feeds his children personally with knowledge and understanding of his Son Jesus Christ in the heart,
 - He convicts us of sin in the heart,
 - He rebukes us and reproves us in the heart,
 - God grants repentance in the heart,
 - God gives and strengthens faith in the heart.
 - Confession made with the mouth is saying out loud that I agree with God in my HEART.

Romans 10: 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

B. Secondly, (v9) It is a good thing that the heart...BE ESTABLISHED...with grace.

1. The warning is BE NOT CARRIED ABOUT...man's various, strange teachings will only carry you about, toss you about.
 - Since man changes those who teach them change their teaching from time-to-time; since man's teaching changes, men change. This flesh will never provide us lasting rest.

Jude 1: 12:...clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

13: Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

Illustration: New idea: folks have become lax so now we bring back stricter discipline. Last generation removed discipline to get folks in the church. (They did it because the stricter discipline which preceded it forced folks away--this new idea will make a holier-than-thou generation--next generation will have to be more relaxed to bring folks back in--changeable clothes of apparel.)

2. When God teaches the heart, he makes our heart BE ESTABLISHED--the word means--anchored, rooted, grounded.

First use of the word establish: **Genesis 6:18: But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.**

- **Hebrews 10:9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**

Look at a few scriptures with me:

- **Ephesians 3: 14: For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15: Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16: That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**
- **Hebrews 6: 18:...[those] who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**

A. God's teaching is in the heart.

B. God establishes the heart with the doctrine of Christ.

C. Here is the third word, (v9) It is a good thing that the heart be established...with GRACE.

1. God is essentially grace; grace is his very character.

- Here, grace is another word for the "doctrine of grace"
- Grace is God's doctrine. It teaches that "He is the God of all grace"; "for Christ Jesus the same"
- God teaches salvation by grace. Grace establishes the heart.
- God deals with his children by grace because none of his children can merit acceptance with God.

2. Opposite to God's grace is found in the next phrase...**not with meats which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.**

- A form of righteousness never profited anyone.
- God teaches all himself, including his pastors--with grace. Opposite to God teaching is man teaching.
- God gives pastors whom he has equipped who by HIS GRACE feed us with knowledge and understanding. Opposite to this grace are false prophets who send themselves whose teachings vary and are strange to God's teaching.
- God establishes the hearts in grace--free and sovereign--
- The heart is established when we know that in Christ the righteousness of God is established and we in him: **Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.**
- Those who are not established in the heart are trying to establish righteousness themselves: **Romans 10:3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

The word of God--Christ and him crucified--goes to the heart, establishes the heart, establishes the heart by God's grace.

Ephesians 4: 14: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15: But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.