

The “*Let Us*” Verses (Hebrews 13:13–16)

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Introduction

1. As we close our long study on Hebrews (we have 2 or 3 more messages on the 13th chapter), a review of the whole argument of the book can be seen in the “*let us*” verses.
2. There are twelve occurrences of “*let us*” in our English translation with no corresponding words in the Greek. We add these words because the verb itself requires them, being passive and subjective.
3. These “*let us*” exhortations are also grouped into four sections that press the reader to act on the truth revealed. Three speak to what the reader should observe because of what Christ has accomplished, and the last one, what the reader must do because of what he now has become in Christ.

I. Covenant Rest

1. The call to *obedience*
 - a. We must *fear* to come short of full obedience (Hebrews 4:1; see 3:12).
 - b. We must *strive* to overcome the danger of disobedience (Hebrews 4:11). There are three reasons to motivate believers to this action.
 - 1) The failure of Israel warns against disobedience (Exodus 23:20–22; 27, 28; Deuteronomy 11:22–24).
 - 2) We have the same natural tendency to resist God’s instructions (Titus 2:14).
 - 3) New covenant believers are established in *grace* (Hebrews 13:9).

Note Hebrews 4:10: “*Whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works* [efforts to overcome sin and self in order to please God] *as God did from his* [creative effort because God finished the creation].” Christ finished all the creative work for a new creation, and we simply must rest in Him as new creatures (Galatians 6:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

2. Grace-enabled *confidence*
 - a. The power of the Word of God to expose our true condition (Hebrews 4:12, 13)
 - b. The glorious work of our great high priest establishes our access to the throne of God (Hebrews 4:14).
 - c. These two powerful assets (the Word and the work of Christ) give great confidence to the believer (Hebrews 4:16). Christ understands our weaknesses and is sympathetic to our condition.

II. Covenant Progress

1. To enter the faith-rest life, one must leave “*the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity*” (Hebrews 6:1–3).
2. The believer’s confidence in God’s gracious work is not a consequence of the believer’s fulfilling some rudimentary instructions that previously pointed to Christ but of God’s

sovereign purpose in realizing all these things *in Christ*. While we may struggle, God has determined to complete the work He is doing in us (Philippians 1:6; 2:12, 13).

III. Covenant Assurance

1. The work of Christ has made the gracious provision for full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:21, 22).
2. However, our assurance is not based on our believing but on His faithfulness (Hebrews 10:23).
3. Our assurance must also provoke us to encourage each other in the church with our New Covenant privilege (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

All this leads us to our final “*let us*” cluster, which is reason for His gracious work in us. He is preparing a people for His name that will shine forth His glory and to testify accurately to a lost and dying world that He is its only hope.

IV. Covenant Worship

1. The race of faith is not easy and requires endurance because this is how God wants to show the worth of His salvation. His servants have been willing to suffer and die because He is worthy and His promised hope is sure (Hebrews 12:1).
2. Endurance demonstrates one’s dependence on grace—“***Let us be grateful*** [grace-filled] *for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus* [by this means] ***let us offer*** to God *acceptable worship, with reverence and awe*” (Hebrews 12:28).
3. Grace-filled endurance requires full identification with Jesus Christ (Hebrews 13:13).
4. When all these grace-empowered provisions of Christ’s great sacrifice are in place in the believer’s life, he is fully equipped for *true worship*—the continual exercise of joy-filled praise to God in obedient service (Hebrews 13:15).

What Can You Take Away from This Lesson?