

Series: Hebrews

Lesson # 78

Title: The Commandments of Christ

Scripture: Hebrews 13: 22-25

Date: 5-3-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, New Jersey

**Hebrews 13: 22: And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. 23: Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. 24: Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. 25: Grace *be* with you all. Amen. <<Written to the Hebrews from Italy, by Timothy.>>**

We will deal with verse 22 in two parts.

**V22: And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation**

**I. BEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD IN YOUR MINDS AND HEARTS AND DO WHAT THE THE LORD SAYS DO.**

By the hand of our reigning King Jesus through the inner working of the Holy Spirit, the God of peace will work in the believer what is well-pleasing in his sight. But one of the means God has chosen to exercise his power in us is through his commandments to us, through his messengers, through his word. In other words, he tells us to do that which only he can work in us then he works it in us. So what is the word of exhortation we have in this letter?

A. First, give earnest, diligent, heed to hear only the commandments of Christ, the Son of God.

**Hebrews 1: 1: God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3: Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 2: 1: Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip. 2: For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3: How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; 4: God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**

1. The law came by Moses; the gospel--grace and truth--by Christ, the Son of God.
2. The gospel of Christ was confirmed to us by them that heard him
3. God also has born witness through the Holy Ghost to the gospel of Christ.

B. Secondly, consider only Christ Jesus of whom the Son of God speaks in the gospel.

**Hebrews 3: 1: Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2: Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house. 3: For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4: For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God. 5: And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6: But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.**

1. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is over the household of God.
2. His work as Substitute and Savior is performed by him alone.
3. His work as Substitute and Savior was performed once, for all time, because he finished the work.
4. His work as Substitute and Savior, is work he has performed perfectly, nothing needs to be added to it by your hand or mine.
5. All who shall be saved by God shall be saved the same way, in Christ, by grace, by faith in him.

**Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus**

C. Thirdly, guard against the evil heart, the deceitful heart, the unbelieving heart that turns from resting in Christ Jesus by faith.

**Hebrews 3: 12: Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13: But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14: For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;...(in the wilderness some hardened their hearts, desired to turn back to the hard bondage of Egypt) 18: And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19: So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. 4: 1: Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it...10: For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. 11: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

D. Fourthly, continually go to God's throne of grace to obtain all help from Christ.

**Hebrews 4: 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. 5: 1: For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity....8: 1: Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2: A minister of**

the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man....10: 19: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20: By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21: And *having* an high priest over the house of God; 22: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

E. Fifth, remember as we hold fast our profession of faith that we do so, not only for ourselves, but for our brethren for whom Christ died.

**Hebrews 10: 23: Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

1. When I do not assemble with God's children then I not only do myself harm but I fail my brethren who need me.
2. Let us consider, not ourselves in this matter of assembling, but one another.
3. You may not think it is important for you to be present during the preaching of the gospel but God says it is.
4. He uses you who believe to provoke your brethren unto love and to good works. So he exhorts us to assemble ourselves together that we may be able to exhort another.

**Illustration:** Have you ever prepared a large meal and the person you prepared it for did not show up? Have you ever been asked into someone's home and they forget and not be home when you get there? Those things did not provoke you to love did they?

5. Christ says to us that it is selfishness and a lack of love toward God and our brethren for us to absent ourselves from those God has assembled together for the purpose of receiving encouragement from us. The day is approaching. Will we be too busy to join our brethren then?

F. Sixthly, lay aside anything and everything that is hindering you. All earthly hindrances that we lay on ourselves only serve to embolden that greatest weight of all--unbelief.

**Hebrews 12: 1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3: For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. 4: Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. 5: And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he**

receiveth. 7: If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?...12: Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13: And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. 14: Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

G. Seventh, let your only motive in doing these things be the grace of God toward you and where Christ has brought you through his suffering on your behalf.

**Hebrews 12: 22: But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23: To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24: And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*. 25: See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.**

So back in Hebrews 13: 22: Paul says, **And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation--BEAR THIS WORD OF THE LORD IN YOUR MINDS AND HEARTS AND DO WHAT THE THE LORD SAYS DO.**

**II. Point number two: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.**

A. Paul wrote a few brief words on each subject in this letter so he may be saying that he only scratched the surface. But it strikes me that Paul is saying something far more important than that--the yoke of Christ is light and easy to bear. We heard seven commandments here:

1. Heed the gospel the Son of God has spoken.
2. Consider Christ of the gospel.
3. Rest in Christ and do not turn away.
4. Go to the throne of grace to Christ your High Priest for help.
5. Let brotherly love continue by assembling, encouraging, provoking unto love, and entertaining strangers.
6. Lay aside everything that hinders you and run the race looking to Christ.
7. Be motivated by the grace of God in Christ.

These are the commandments of God, the commandments of Christ Jesus our Lord. This is the rule of faith by which Christ rules in our hearts.

What a pleasant, light, easy, bearable yoke Christ has given to us, his willing-bond servants. **John 15:10: If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

May the God of peace work in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Christ Jesus. To whom to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

