

Holy Living (Pt. 2)

Hebrews 13:7-19

I. **THE HISTORY OF OUR FAITH** (7-9)—It is established, anchored in history, and observable.

A. **Remember the Witness of the Apostles.** (7; Heb 2:1-4;)—your leaders (who first brought you the gospel)

1. **Their Teaching** (Jd 1:3; 2 Tim 1:13 & 2:2)—eye witnesses of the Lord's ministry & resurrection

2. **Their Example** (2 Tim 3:14; 1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17)—emulate their faith

a. **Holiness of Life**—what it looks like to follow Christ

b. **Miracles in Ministry**—powerful confirmation the Apostle's teaching was true

c. **Faithful unto Death**—the sincerity and faithfulness of their lives

B. **Look to the Person of Christ.** (8; Heb 1:10-12 & 12:2; Ps 102:25-27; Isa 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Rev 1:8,17, 2:8, 22:13)—eternal, unchanging nature

1. **Yesterday** (Jn 1:1-2)—anchored in history

2. **Today** (Lk 24:5; Mat 18:20; Heb 4:16)—living reality; His power is available to us now

3. **Forever** (Mat 28:20; Rom 8:38-39; Heb 7:24-25)—Because Jesus lives forever, all the benefits of what He accomplished for us will last forever.

C. **Maintain the Purity of the Gospel.** (9; Eph 4:14)—don't get swept into different, strange teachings

1. **Not back** into ceremonial Judaism (Rom 14:17; Heb 9:9-10)—it is *fulfilled*

2. **Not beyond** into anything further (Gal 1:6-8)—the gospel is *complete*

II. **THE DISTINCTION OF OUR RELIGION** (10-14)—not in outward forms, rituals and symbols but in holy living relationship with God and others

A. **The Alter from Which We Eat** (10; Lev 16:27/ Heb 9:12-14)—the once-for-all Atonement of Christ

1. **Our High Priest** (Heb 10:12)—Not Aaron's descendants but Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, a priest in the order of Melchizedek

2. **The Alter** (Heb 9:24)—Not the brazen alter in the earthly temple but the real alter in the heavenly temple

3. **The Sacrifice** (Heb 10:10;)—Not a lamb or heifer but the body and blood of Christ shed on the cross for us

4. **The Atonement** (Heb10:14)—*completed once for all*; we have been made holy by the blood of Jesus Christ.

B. The Place Outside the Camp (11-13;)—embrace the disgrace of following Christ

1. **Jesus took the curse as our sin-bearer.**

2. **Jesus was rejected by His own people.** (Jn 1:11)

3. **Jesus followers will be rejected by those who reject Him.** (Lk 6:22; Heb 11:26)

C. The City That Is to Come (14; Heb 11:13-16)

1. **Don't expect to fit in and belong here and now.**

2. **The heavenly city is coming.** (Rev 21:10)

D. The Sacrifices We Offer (15-16)—the priesthood of all believers

1. **Spiritual in Nature** (Hos 6:6; 1 Pet 2:5; Rom 12:1)—no more ritual temple sacrifices

a. **Praise** (Ps 107:1-2)—what HE has done for us, not what we do

b. **Good Deeds** (Mic 6:8; Js 1:27)—incapable of atoning for our sin but *in Christ*, they are acceptable and pleasing to God

c. **Sharing with Others** ()—because we love others and have faith in God to provide

2. **Motivated by Gratitude**—response; not to atone for sin but in thanksgiving for the great salvation that we have been given.

3. **Offered Continually**—overflowing with praise and thanks to God

III. THE LEADERS OF OUR CHURCH (17-19)—

A. Submit to their Authority. (17; Act 14:23 & 20:28; Eph 5:21; 1 Tim 5:17; Tit 1:5)—They have been given **real authority**.

1. **They keep watch over our souls.** (Jer 6:17; Ezek 33:6; 1 Pet 5:1-5)

2. **They will give account to Christ.** (Ezek 34; Ja 3:1)—They work for Jesus.

3. **Be a joy, not a pain!** (Num 11:10-15; 2 Cor 11:27-29)—They carry a heavy burden!

B. Pray for them. (18-19)