

Hebrews

Lesson 9 Chapter 13

Participant Guide

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Lesson 9

Hebrews 13

Holy Living

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” *Hebrews 13:5*

Prayers

Introduction

In a manner similar to letters written by Paul and Peter, the writer of Hebrews closes his short letter with encouragement to live holy lives. The writer continues to exalt Christ as the unchanging perfect sacrifice for sin. Our response to God’s grace is thanksgiving, praise, and doing good for others.

Read Hebrews 13:1-8

Heb 13:1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.

Heb 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Heb 13:3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Heb 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Heb 13:6 So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Discuss

1. Verse 1. How have you experienced brotherly love among believers?

2. Verse 2. What is your favorite account of entertaining strangers – were they angels or something much worse?!

3. Verse 4 warns to keep the marriage bed pure. Adultery is a major factor leading to divorce. Studies vary widely but report adultery in 28-60% of couples filing for divorce. Christian couples in marital counseling reported the highest incidence (60%). Why might Christians be likely to become entrapped by the temptation of adultery?

4. Money issues consistently rank as a major factor in 22-40% of divorces. 70% of Americans are one paycheck away from bankruptcy if unemployment lasts for as little as two weeks or medical hardship should strike. 20-30% of Americans cannot pay their monthly bills.

What factors do the following verses indicate are at the core of money worries? Also, refer to the parallel verses.

- a. Matthew 6:24 **“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.**

 - b. Proverbs 30:7 **“Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:**
Pr 30:8 Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
Pr 30:9 Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

 - c. Matthew 6:30 **If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**
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5. Verse 7 Remember your leaders – How has a pastor made an impression on your life?

Read Hebrews 13: 8-16

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb 13:9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

Heb 13:10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.
Heb 13:11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.

Heb 13:12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Heb 13:13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

Heb 13:14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Heb 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Heb 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Discuss

6. Verses 8-9 warn against following [diverse] and strange teachings. There was plenty to be distracted by in the 1st and 2nd centuries (Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism, and Gnosticism). What seems to be the writer's major concern?

7. If the writer was writing verses 8-9 today, what are "strange" teachings of today that lead people away from Christ?

8. How do you interpret the reference to the altar in verse 10?

9. What is the environment "outside the camp" the author refers to in verses 11-16??

10. Why are we called to minister "outside the camp"?

11. Verse 15-16 What sacrifices does God desire?

Read Hebrews 13:17-25

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Heb 13:18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. Heb 13:19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

Heb 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Heb 13:22 Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter. Heb 13:23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you. Heb 13:24 Greet all your leaders and all God's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings. Heb 13:25 Grace be with you all.

12. Verses 17-19 Let's hear it for the leaders! What do our leaders need from us?

13. The writer closes with a prayer of blessing of two parts in verses 20-21 – remembering God's actions in the past and our assurance He will meet our needs in the future.

- a. Think of 3 to four things God has done for you in the past.

- b. What requests and needs are on your heart in the future?

Closing Prayer and Blessing