

A photograph of a person in traditional Jewish prayer attire (white tallit and tefillin) reading from an open torah scroll. The person is positioned in front of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The image serves as the background for the slide.

Pleasing in His Sight

Hebrews 13 Verse by Verse

Introduction

A God-
Honoring Life
13:1-6

A God-
Honoring
Church
13:7-17

Grace Be
with You
13:18-25

Conclusions



Introduction

Previously in Hebrews:

- In **Hebrews 12** we looked at the Christian life in terms of **running a race** - a race that takes **endurance**.
- It is a race that requires **discipline**, because we are going to endure many trials.
- It is a race that requires **holiness**, which God's discipline is designed to produce in us.
- We were encouraged to begin with a healthy **fear of God**, but then move on to **God's grace**.
- It is God's grace that will one day bring us to our eternal home.

Hebrews
12:28-29

What's in
Hebrews 13?

Our
Key Verse

Hebrews 12:28-29

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

What's in Hebrews 13?

- This is a chapter full of practical instruction.
- Our teacher has given us many reasons **to continue in our faith.**
- He now wants us to **live out our faith** in the world.
- Expanding on the idea of **acceptable worship** from **Hebrews 12:28**, he will give us:
 - Marks of a **God-honoring life.**
 - Marks of a **God-honoring church.**
- He will close with a **final blessing** and leave us with **God's grace.**

Key Verse

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

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A photograph of a man in a white shirt and black tie, and a stack of books. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent teal circle containing the text.

A God- Honoring Life

13:1-6



A God-Honoring Life 13:1-6

- In these six short verses our rabbi gives us five quick commands.
- Each points to one quality of a God-honoring life.

Brotherly
Love v.1

Hospitality
v.2

Care for the
Persecuted
v.3

Sexual
Purity v.4

Contentment
v. 5-6



Brotherly Love v.1

- Brotherly love is *philadelphia*, from which the City of Brotherly Love gets its name.
- We all have the same father, making us brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Christians should enjoy a “family” or brotherly kind of loyalty and affection for one another.

Romans
12:9-11

Romans 12:9-11

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with **brotherly affection**. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.



Hospitality v.2

- Back in **Genesis**, both **Abraham** and **Lot** invited guests into their home who turned out to be literal angels sent by God.
- In the early church it was essential for Christians to allow travelers, sometimes missionaries or evangelists, to stay with them.
- So we are encouraged to practice **hospitality**.
- The word is literally “**the love for strangers**” or “**the love of foreigners**,” which is why *strangers* are emphasized by the translators of the ESV.

1 Timothy
3:2-3

1 Timothy 3:2-3

2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, **the husband of one wife**, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, **hospitable**, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, **not a lover of money**.



Care for the Persecuted v.3

- At the time of this writing, Christians were beginning to suffer for their faith and some were in prison.
- This still happens today, so it is important that we are mindful of those Christians who are persecuted for their faith.
- We are to **remember them** as if we were imprisoned – as if chained – with them.

Personal
Illustration

Personal Illustration

- Ginger & I met because she was both hospitable and remembered Christian prisoners.
- I was serving in Eastern Europe with a ministry that encouraged letter writing to Christians imprisoned for their faith in the now extinct USSR.
- Ginger got involved with this ministry and began writing letters.
- Then I came to Vermont one winter doing work for this ministry.
- She arranged a meeting for me at her home.
- The same happened the following winter.
- We've been married for 33 years.



Sexual Purity V.4

- Throughout church history, marriage has come under attack from two directions.
 - The first side deems biblical marital faithfulness to be unrealistic or even misguided. It makes sexual freedom more of the norm.
 - The other side has deemed celibacy and singleness preferable to or holier than marriage
- Biblically, both of these sides are off balance.
- Marriage, including the marriage bed, is a good thing and not at all less holy than celibacy or singleness.
- But the holiness of the bed is defiled through adultery and sexual immorality - both of which are common enough today.



Contentment vv.5-6

- **Love of money** or **covetousness** can often be traced to an insufficient trust in the Lord.
- “Will He really give me what I need? Will He really provide that job, that spouse, that encouragement?”
- **We are not content** with the life that he gives us, and we begin looking elsewhere to be satisfied.
- **We look at others** and begin to want what they have.
- This is covetousness and it is harmful – a form of **idolatry**. (Colossians 3:5).
- When we are satisfied with Jesus, we need very little else.

A photograph of a person in traditional Jewish prayer attire (white tallit and tefillin) kneeling at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, reading from an open torah scroll. The wall behind them is made of large, textured stones.

Pleasing in His Sight

Hebrews 13 Verse by Verse

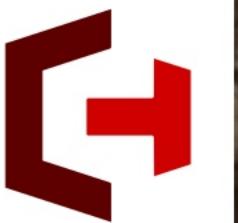
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A photograph of a person in a white robe, likely a rabbi, holding a Torah scroll. The person is standing in what appears to be a synagogue. The image is partially obscured by three large, semi-transparent light blue circles that overlap in the center. The text 'A God-Honoring Church' is written in black, sans-serif font within these circles.

A God-Honoring Church

13:7-17



A God-Honoring Church 13:7-17

- In this section our author focuses on a few areas which, if followed will lead to a spiritually healthy, God-honoring church.

Respect for Leaders

A Right View of Jesus

Christian Sacrifice

Respect for Leaders

- In our day, both abuse of authority and defiance of authority are rampant - and the two feed off one another.
- Neither of these is really anything new.
- A biblical view involves both a proper *respect for* and a proper *exercise of* authority.
- Leaders and their people can benefit from a certain level of humility that we do not always see.

Remember
Your Leaders

Submitting
to Leaders

From
Warren
Wiersbe



Remember Your Leaders v.7

- **Remembering leaders** means that we retain a certain loyalty to them.
- We keep in mind that we are a part of their legacy.
- The ancient rabbis made it a practice to reference those who had taught before them in their own teaching.
- They would compare and contrast their views.
- This very practice taught a certain respect for those who had gone before them - for those that they followed.
- It was also a safeguard against innovative, *revisionist* teaching.
- Some seem to think no one ever properly studied or understood a passage before we came along.

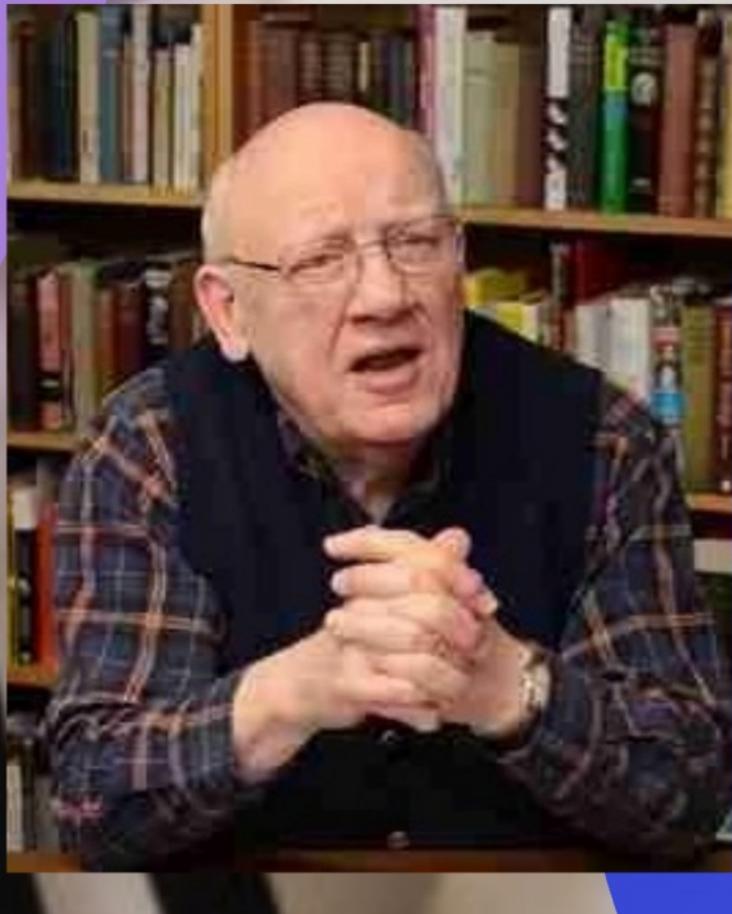


Submitting to Leaders v.17

- Obviously, this verse that can be easily abused.
- It can also be easily ignored.

- God appoints leaders for a reason.
- Someone has to take charge at certain times.

- Leaders will also have to give an account to God for the ministry they have carried out.
- Personally, I find that to be a scary thought.
- It's a big relief to know I can cast myself upon God's grace.



Warren Wiersbe
(1929 - 2019),
Pastor and Bible
teacher.

When a servant of God is in the will of God, teaching the Word of God, the people of God should submit and obey ... Some church members have a flippant attitude toward pastoral authority, and this is dangerous. One day every pastor will have to give an account of his ministry to the Lord, and he wants to be able to do it with joy.

A Right View of Jesus

Immutability

- 13:8 Jesus is **immutable** = unchangeable
- 13:9-13 Jesus died as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
 - On the Day of Atonement no one would eat of the sacrifices.
 - They were burned outside the camp.
 - Even so, we are cleansed by the blood of Christ.
- 13:14 We seek the city that is to come - the city that God has prepared.

Our Future
Home

Immutability

- Sometimes people see the places where God changes his mind in Scripture, or changes what he does.
- They then think this doctrine cannot be true.
- This is not so much a misunderstanding of God or of the Bible as a misunderstanding of what immutability is.
- **God stays the same** - therefore, we can depend upon him.
- **It is we who change** and thus find ourselves in a differing relationship toward an unchanging God.

Numbers
23:19-20

Malachi
3:6-7

Numbers 23:19-20

- *In the words of Balaam, the greedy prophet*

19 God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his
mind.

Has he said, and will he not do it?

Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

20 Behold, I received a command to bless:
he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.

Malachi 3:6-7

6 "For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

Our Future Home

Hebrews 11:9-10

9 By faith [Abraham] went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Hebrews 11:16

But as it is, [the patriarchs] desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Christian Sacrifice

- Some days we truly and spontaneously feel like praising God. That's wonderful.
- We also need to train ourselves to praise and give thanks to God even when we don't feel like it.
- A true sacrifice need not be spontaneous.

- We should also be generous people, doing good and sharing with others.
- This is simply part of the Christian life.
- It is a sacrifice that pleases God.

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Grace Be
with You

13:18-25

Con



Grace Be with You 13:18-25

- 13:18-19 I would have to word this a bit differently than our rabbi:
 - “I’m *more or less confident* that I have a clear conscience ...”
 - Or, “I’m *pretty sure* my conscience is clear but I need to ask God’s forgiveness quite often ...”
 - So I probably need your prayers even more than our writer.
 - Please make good use of that handout!!

Jesus the Shepherd

Effects of the New Covenant

Jesus the Shepherd

- Jesus Christ is our **Great Shepherd**.
(Hebrews 13:20)
- He is also the **Good Shepherd** (John 10:11, 14)
- And He is the **Chief Shepherd** (1 Peter 5:4)

A Few
Words on
Shepherds

A Few
Words on
Sheep

A Few Words on Shepherds

The following points apply to **shepherds**:

- They look after sheep.
- They protect sheep from danger.
- They lead their sheep to the food and water that they need.

A Few Words on Sheep

The following points apply to sheep:

- They need a shepherd to look after them.
- They need protection from danger.
- They need a shepherd to lead them to the food and water that they need.

Effects of the New Covenant

As we submit to God, trusting in Christ's blood, the blood of the eternal covenant, he will:

- Make us complete in every good work.
- Empower us to do His will.
- Work in us what is well pleasing in His sight.

He does all of this through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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- As we close, let's remind ourselves of some **major themes in Hebrews** and the **topics in Hebrews 13**.

Major
Themes in
Hebrews

Topics in
Hebrews 13

Key Verse

A Final
Prayer

Major Themes in Hebrews

- **The Superiority of Christ**, even to a completely biblical Judaism as practiced prior to His coming.
- **Christ is our High Priest** and, as such, is the only perfect Mediator between God and the human race.
- **Christ's death functioned as a sacrifice for our sins.** His blood was shed with a purpose.

- **Christ's ministry is the fulfillment of God's promises.** As such, He is the goal and the focal point of the entire Bible.
- **Faith.** The Old Testament was full of heroes of the faith. Having Jesus, our faith is better informed than theirs. They had the promises while we have the reality.

- **Endurance.** Don't ever give up on Jesus.
- Don't compromise your faith in Him for something less biblical, even if that means serious difficulty or personal cost.
- **Perseverance** in Christ is the mark of a genuine believer.

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Topics in Hebrews 13

For a God-Honoring Life:

- Love one another.
- Be hospitable.
- Remember our brothers and sisters who are mistreated for their faith.
- Stay sexually pure.
- Refrain from covetousness.

To Make This a God-Honoring Church:

- Give proper respect to the leaders.
- Keep a right view of Jesus Christ.
- Practice Christian forms of sacrifice.
- And pray for your pastor.

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To Make This a God-Honoring Church:

- Give proper respect to the leaders.
- Keep a right view of Jesus Christ.
- Practice Christian forms of sacrifice.
- And pray for your pastor.

Key Verse

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.

A Final Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

- We thank you for the sacrifice of our Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Thank you that his shed blood is the remedy, the cure and solution for our sins.
- Help us to always give him his rightful place as absolute Lord of our lives.
- Help us now to live God-honoring lives that are pleasing to you and free from the stain of this world.
- And help us together to form a God-honoring church, one that would represent you well and bring glory to your name.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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