

“Living The Christian Life”

Hebrews 13:1-10

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Teaching Aim: To examine a series of short moral instructions from the writer of Hebrews to the persecuted Hebrew Christians and to us today. To realize Christians should live out these practices in all ages. To encourage Christians to be Christ-like as we share the gospel with others. To realize spiritual leaders come and go, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Putting the love of Christ into action by loving others (Hebrews 13:1-3)

1. According to Jesus, what is the greatest commandment (**vs. 1**)? (See **Matt. 22:36-40**) What can the Christian learn about hospitality from the following verses: **Rom. 12:12-13; 1 Pet. 4:7-9; 3 John 8**? Do we need to have “*the spiritual gift*” of hospitality in order to be hospitable? What can we learn about hospitality from **Rom. 12:9-13**?
2. Why was Christian hospitality so important in the early days of the church? (See **Acts 8:1**) Historically, has it been dangerous for people to host Christians during times of persecution. Why? Would you take Christians into your home today if they were fleeing for their lives? Why or why not? How could being hospitable to Christians in some countries endanger your family?
3. What are some ways that Christians can display hospitality today? Have you ever taken someone with a special need into your home on a temporary basis? According to **verse 2**, who could these people be? What is the meaning of the word “*angel*?” (See Dictionary) Can human beings be an “*angel*” in this sense? Note: During times of difficulty, have you ever had another person be “*a messenger*” of God’s love to you?
4. As Christians, we should be willing to visit people who are serving time in jail. Who is **verse 3** most likely referring to? Why would Christians be in prison? Are there areas of the world today where people are still being put in prison because of their faith in Jesus Christ? If so, where? Why were these visits especially important for the prisoners during biblical times? (See **2 Tim. 1:16-18; 4:13**)

Part II: Honoring God through the way we live our lives (Hebrews 13:4-6)

1. Marriage is the oldest institution on earth and was instituted by God before the fall of man (**vs. 4**). (See **Gen. 2:24**) Marriage done God's way is foundational to the welfare of human society. What are some of the challenges marriage is facing in our society today? Are these attacks against the institution of marriage helping or hindering our nation?
2. The ultimate picture of the marriage relationship is Christ and His Church. (See **Eph. 5:22-33**) Has Jesus ever been unfaithful to His Bride? Will He ever be? What can we learn from **verse 4** about the priority God places on faithfulness in the marriage relationship? Have you been faithful to keep your wedding vows? Who were those vows ultimately made to?
3. The elders of Shoreline Community Church felt it necessary to put the following statement into our church Statement of Faith and Constitution: *"We believe that marriage is ordained of God to be between one man and one woman. God's design for marriage is that it lasts for a lifetime (Gen. 2:23-24)."* Why is it necessary for churches to have such a statement included in their constitutions today?
4. What does the word "*covetous*" mean? (See Dictionary) Why is it important for Christian conduct to be without covetousness (**vs. 5**)? (See **Matt. 6:24; Luke 12:15**) What makes materialism such a threat to the church today? What is the solution?
5. The writer of Hebrews says *"...be content with such things as you have..."* in **verse 5**. Why is it important for believers to be content with God's provision in their lives? What words of wisdom did Paul share with Timothy in **1 Tim. 6:6-9**? Is the love of money "*the root*" or "*a root*" of all kinds of evils? (See **1 Tim. 6:10**) Money is not evil in itself, but the love of money is and can lead to all sorts of problems. According to **1 Tim. 6:10b**, what are some problems the love of money can cause?

6. The quotation found in **verse 5b** is in the emphatic tense in the Greek, but not seen in the English translation. What did God promise the believer in this verse? How would you restate that verse in the emphatic tense? Jesus used the same word in a similar way in **John 10:28**. How could you emphatically restate **John 10:28** to describe your salvation and eternal life?

7. Since the Lord will never, ever, ever forsake us, how should we respond in living our lives (**vs. 6**)? So often we fear man and not God, why? (See **Psa. 118:6**) It is important to remember, *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (See **Rom. 8:31**) What comforting truth can every Christian learn from **Rom. 8:35-39**?

Part III: The importance of remaining spiritually in tune with Christ (Hebrews 13:7-10)

1. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews encouraged his readers to remember those who rule over them in the Christian faith (**vs. 7**)? Who are these individuals? What kind of example should the spiritual leaders of the church set? Does this always turn out to be the case? Should Christians blindly follow their leaders or check what they say and do against Holy Scripture?

2. What is the meaning of **Heb. 13:17** and how does it relate to you? Why is it important for us to respect the spiritual leaders of our church? Can we expect them to make mistakes? How should we respond when they do make mistakes? How should we respond when they openly sin? (See **Matt. 18:15-17**)

3. While spiritual leaders may come and go, the Lord Jesus Christ does not. What can we learn about Jesus from **verse 8**? Why should this verse be an encouragement to believers today?

4. It would be a fatal mistake for the so-called Hebrew Christians to ultimately and finally reject the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ and return to the Aaronic priesthood of Judaism. In doing so they would reject the only way to salvation. Is it a mistake for *"Christians"* to walk away from Christ and His Church today when they become discouraged? Why? Will a born-again Christian ultimately reject Christ and walk away? (See **John 10:28**)

5. Why is it important for Christians to be grounded in sound Bible doctrine (**vs. 9**)? What is the meaning of the word “*doctrine*?” (See Dictionary) Why do so many people today look at doctrine as a bad word? What does Jesus teach us about false prophets (or false teachers) in **Matt. 7:15-16a**?

6. What can we learn about the danger to the Christian churches from Paul’s farewell address to the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:29-30**? The threat of false doctrine creeping into the church today is a real danger. Why is it important for us to judge everything we see or hear in light of Sacred Scripture? (See **Heb. 13:8**) Discuss the importance of the statement, “*The Scriptures and the Scriptures alone are the authority for what we believe.*” Should the same be true of the music we sing in church today? Why or why not?

7. What “*altar*” is spoken of in **verse 10**? Why can’t anyone who rejects Christ eat from this altar? How do Christians eat from this sacrifice today? (See **John 6:47-51,53-54**) What are some ways that feasting on Christ benefits us today?

8. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now?

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The mark of every true Christian is love.
- Hospitality should be practiced by every believer in Jesus Christ.
- We must remember and support men and women who are in prison because of their faith.
- Marriage done God’s way is honorable, it is between one man and one woman for one lifetime.
- Covetousness takes our focus off God and places it squarely on our own desires.
- We are to treat with respect those leaders whom God has placed over us in the church.
- It is critical for every Christian to have a solid foundation in orthodox Bible doctrine.
- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.