

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 15-Final Instructions and Closing Words

Focus: Hebrews 13:1-25

➤ **Having a firm moral foundation (v.1-6)**

- (v.1) **“Let brotherly love continue.”** God wants us to have His character! We are to love one another, even as He has loved us. All should know that we are Christ’s disciples by our love “one for another.” (See **John 13:34,35**). “God is love” and He wants us to show His love to everyone (1 John 4:16-21). The Holy Spirit is seeking to fill us with this heavenly love of God (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22). Because of sinfulness, love has grown cold in many, but God wants us to “endure to the end” and to have our “first love” (Matthew 24:12,13; Revelation 2:4,5).
- (v.2, 3) **You never know who we are going to entertain when you meet a stranger.** The Bible says that we should show heaven’s love and consideration even for strangers (though at least being cautious because of the dangerous people who are in the world). We must show kindness to all! **Jesus calls us to this (Matthew 25:40-45)**. We could be showing our action to Jesus, not just to strangers. That’s how God sees it! And yes, Angels have walked among us, appearing only as men. You just never know who you will meet! Truly! Abraham met with angels in the past (ref. Gen. 18:1-22; 19:1). We should help those who are in trouble or in need as much as is possible and be “a good Samaritan” (ref. Luke 10:33).
- (v.4) **Marriage is honorable!** God’s plan for marriage is an honorable one! Marriage is between one man and one woman, and this commitment should last for all of life until death does us part (Gen. 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:39). It is the only acceptable one in God’s eyes. Any sexual relationships outside of that are sinful and should never be committed. If people are acting sinfully they are better to just marry now for life, or to break it off and not continue in their sin (See 1 Cor. 7 and Matthew 5:28-30; 18:8 for these principles). God will judge all such sins and none will escape the consequence of their corruption without the power of Jesus to heal (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- (v.5,6) We should be content with such things as we have and not covet the things of others. Let us remember that if everything else in this life fails us, God himself never will—He promises that to us!!! Do not fear what man can do to you, but reverence God and be faithful to Him! (See also Proverbs 29:25).

➤ **How to conduct ourselves rightly in worship to God (v.7-17)**

- (v.7,8) Respect the leaders over us in the faith. And if they are proper ones, called of God, then they should also be setting a right example for godly living (See **1 Timothy 4:12**). But, ultimately, let us follow Jesus who is our perfect example! And He, Jesus, never changes!!

- (v.9) Be careful to establish your heart with love and faith for God. Bible teachings help us to understand God and to relate with Him. But remember, God is not just some book or some mere idea that men like to argue over. No! God is a living being! Let us worship and serve Him! Let us be connected to Him in Love and be passionately involved with Him through a daily love relationship! **(Matthew 22:37)**
- (v.10-17) Make a **faithful and true offering to God!** That is, a righteous and faithful life! Honor God and respect His faithful leaders as well (and make their lives easier by obeying God. Thank you!). Come “outside the camp” which means that we take Jesus our offering even outside the camp of Israel proper. If Israel proper will not accept Him, yet let us do so.
- **Final prayer request, Prayer, last words and goodbyes (v.18-25)**
 - (v.18-19) A request for prayer. The Apostles often asked for such, even as we should too! It appears that this author wanted to be free to meet with these Hebrews soon or be “restored” to them.
 - (v.20-22) A prayer and final plea was made for faithfulness to God! Christ is that “Great Shepherd of the sheep” who is so far above any of the earthly shepherds who serve under Him. Jesus is the “Good Shepherd” (ref. John 10:1-18).
 - (v.23) The author of this Epistle was quite familiar with Timothy! He said “our brother Timothy” was set free (apparently he had been imprisoned for a time). This verse may suggest Paul as author with his connection to Timothy (compare to 2 Cor. 1:1 and Philemon 1:1).
 - (v.24,25) This letter was written from somewhere in Italy!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your choice today to serve the Living God and to follow His pathway of righteousness? _____