

Hebrews 13:10-17
Bible Study Transcript

We are going to finish out this section of Hebrews chapter 13 verses 7-17. Last week we took verses 7, 8 and 9. This week will be Hebrews 13:10-17.

I am going to go back up to verse 7, **Remember the ones who are your leaders, who spoke to you the Word of God** - And, again, the emphasis from last week is *spoke*, past tense. This is not making reference to those who are leading them now, even though it is a present participle about their leaders; but our leaders who have spoken the word of God to us are those who have come before us, who ministered the word and we study the ministry of that Word.

Of whom, while reflecting on the end result of their life style, imitate the faith - Here we go with faith again. "Follow their faith." Don't copy it. Let that be an imitation. We trust the Lord like they did. They show us what the faith is like that comes from God.

The reason why we can receive what those who have said long ago, we can receive it today is because of verse 8, **Jesus Christ, yesterday, and the same today and forever**. Same truth that was true in the early church is the same truth that is true today cause Jesus never changes.

Verse 9, because of this, **Do not be carried away with various and strange teachings. For it is good for the heart to be established by grace; not foods, in which the ones who had walked in it were not profited**. He is talking about those who try to approach, or attain, spirituality through diets like the Jews did. The eating of certain foods. Even the sacrifices that they would bring to the tabernacle area was food to eat, but they were participating in sacrificing animals. They were participating in food and through it, it was their way of spirituality, or trying to attain it. But those who walked that way and those who do walk that way it doesn't benefit spiritually at all.

So, verses 10 through 17 tells us - beginning now our reading at verse 10, **We have an altar, out of which the ones who are serving the tabernacle have no authority to eat from. For the bodies of these animals, are being burned outside of the camp, of whose blood (that is, of these animals) is being offered concerning sin into the holies and through the high priest. Wherefore (or on account of which), in verse 12, also Jesus suffered outside the gate, in order that He might sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore then, we should come to Him outside of the camp, while carrying (or bearing) His reproach. For we do not have here an abiding city, but we are seeking one that is about to come. Therefore, through Him we should offer up a sacrifice of praise through everything to God, (making reference to the sacrifice) that is, the fruit of our lips (notice this) confessing to His name**. Dative case. Not, *confessing His name* but, *confessing to His name*. That is the name that we go by. That is the name that we identify with. We are confessing to His name.

And you should not forget doing well and sharing - It all has to do with fellowship, looking out for the needs of the brethren and **κοινωνία** (*koinōnia*) is the word for *sharing*.

for such sacrifices God is well pleased with. Verse 17, Obey the ones who are your leaders, and yield; ὑπεικετε (*hupeikete*) means *to give in, or yield*.

For they themselves are watching on behalf of your souls, (as giving back, or) as giving an account; (you should do this, that is, be obedient and yield) in order that they might do this with joy, and not groaning; Have you ever heard a pastor groan? Much groaning goes on. For this is unprofitable for you.

We are in the final verses of the book of Hebrews. The writer of Hebrews is giving instructions, giving commands. Verse 7, "Remember the ones who are leading you who spoke to you the word of God, that after reviewing their life and the end result of their life, then imitate the faith."

When we go through the book of Acts together in the first hour, these are the ones who have left the Word of God to us, these are the ones who have left an example of what it means to live by faith. Because Jesus is the same. We have the same Jesus today that Paul did. Same truth, walking the same way, hasn't changed. Culture is different, society is different, and that has put pressure on Christians to compromise and even change their walk with the Lord, to fit in with the pressures that we have; but Jesus is the same.

We are not to be carried away with various and strange teachings for he says, "It is good for the heart to be established with grace and not foods." Food is just the example of a whole religious system of people attempting to reach spirituality through physical, or ceremonial practices. In the world we call it works, but in the church we call it spirituality. The flesh is just doing different activities, but it is still the flesh. It is still religion. It is Paul in Romans 14 that says, "The kingdom of God is not made up of food and drink; but it is the power in the Holy Spirit and the peace and the joy in the Spirit of God." There is a difference between walking in the Spirit and there is a difference between functioning in religious practice.

And even Christians in our day - and we in positions of leadership, we are responsible for this, in part. It is more comfortable, for people, Christians to have a religious system to function in, than it is to follow Christ. It is easier to relate to a church system than it is to relate to Christ. Just as the email that I read to you - it is just easier to participate with the other Christians, find a nice church that you like. It is easier than coming in contact with the Word of God and actually realizing that the Word of God is speaking to me and that His truth has been the same and is the same today. I am the one that changes it to suit my comforts and my conveniences, even as a Christian. So, there is a constant struggle to stay with the Word.

I don't even trust my own self when I read whether it is Greek, Hebrew, English, whatever it is. The Word of God, the Spirit of God through the accuracy of the Word of God as we have it keeps your mind, keeps you pinned down and thinking straight. I just don't trust it when my mind starts twirling off into fantasy land thinking that I have some kind of dream and vision; that not only does it not line up with the Word of God it goes against the Word of God.

So, he says about foods, in verse 10 he says, **We have an altar, from which those who are serving tabernacle** - that is a present participle. Those who are serving the tabernacle they have no authority to eat from our altar. If they are finding their spirituality through the eating of

foods and meats and the killing of animals, and not in participating in the sacrifice that was made in Jesus Christ they have no authority to eat from the same altar. You can't mix the two.

In fact, as we have read, there are statements here that basically are telling them Jesus went outside the city. He went outside the gate. He died up on a hill. And the reason why He did that, why He did not die inside the city is because the gospel message will be - to the Jewish person and all people who try to find comfort and security in a religious system - that you have to go outside the camp. The camp. The encouragement is to come out to Christ. Come to Him carrying His reproach. We don't like that. I don't like it. I don't like it when I am with other Christians and all of a sudden somebody will say something and all of sudden something will pop in my head about what God's Word says and I am going, "I know that I am with the brethren, but if I say this about what God's Word says they are going to unload on me." Not even taking into consideration whether it is true. Not even saying, "Well, we will go look it up." They will unload, because we have our own approach and our own ideas as to what God's Word says, and it is changed around for our own benefit.

He says in verse 12, **Jesus suffered outside the gate in order that He might sanctify the people through His own blood.** But those who are offering up, in verse 11, those who are offering up the animals, they throw the animals away outside the camp. It is unclean. But the blood they present within the holies through the High priest concerning sin. He is showing the parallel. One is just going through the motions. The High priest is taking the blood of that animal and that animal is thrown outside the camp. So, Jesus goes outside the camp. The message to the Jewish, or Hebrew person is "You have to go outside of Judaism."

When John the Baptist came, he came baptizing with a baptism of repentance, but it was for the Jews. For them to repent meant that they had to leave off from their security in Judaism and they had to be ready for the coming of Messiah. They couldn't do both. They couldn't trust in Him and trust in Judaism. It is not the Lord's way to empower man's Christian systems. He doesn't empower systems. He doesn't want people to relate to a tangible church system, He wants people to relate to Him. Directly. To Christ.

As we are going through the book of Acts, we are studying about personal relationship. The Lord working through personal lives, in a big way, because they had a simple approach. Of course, they had to go through years of preparation. Of course, they had to go through a humbling process before they came to a point where they could be used. To where Peter could say, "Why do you look to us as though our power or godliness made this man to walk?" Probably three years earlier Peter would have said, "Hey John, do you think it was you or me that did this? Hey! I am the one that pulled him up. I yanked him up off his knees and straightened him up." Peter would have taken credit, now he is not talking credit; that is what makes him a useable vessel.

In verse 13 he says, **We should come to Him outside the camp while carrying His reproach.** Can you imagine? Imagine yourself a Hebrew or Jewish person, the entire city, the entire Jewish race, is functioning in the religion of Judaism and you are called to come outside of the system and just come to Jesus Christ. Can you imagine how you would be treated? That is

why it is more comfortable in a system because if you just function in the ceremony like everybody else does, nobody gives you a bad time. But we are told to come to Him outside the camp. The camp represents the religious practices. You have to come outside the camp. Outside of Judaism. Outside of religion. And come to Him personally and whatever you have to suffer for it - your personal identification with Christ - then you have to carry that, carry that with you.

And it is just interesting to me, it has been over the years and I still get duped, I still get deceived. When I am with Christians I just relax, it is like "Ahhhhhh, with the brethren." And you think that when you are with other people who are Christians, it's like, "Oh, yeah, another Christian!" but you'd better watch out. The nonbeliever, though he might not receive Christ or agree with the things of Christ, at least they will respect the people who have an honest and sincere relationship with Christ. It is really not the nonbelievers that give us the bad time, it is the people who are calling themselves God's people, the Christians.

And Christian is a generic term in our society.

We had people who began in the Greek class that said they were Christians because they believed in God. When we even studied how a person needs to be born spiritually that was new to them. And they said, "We just believe that everybody that has believed in God and went to church are Christians." Well, that is the way it is in America. But we have got the wheat and the tares together. We have got the religious Christians and the ones who are born of the Spirit of God. Both talk the same, look the same. People are called out individually by Christ. And we have to come outside the camp bearing His reproach - all the name calling - in order to identify with Christ.

Because, in verse 14, **There is no abiding city here for us, but we are seeking out** - notice **ἐπι** (epi) on the front of the word. **We are seeking out the city is that is about to come.** So, we are passing on. We are not of any religious system of this earth. We belong to Christ and we are looking for the things of Christ.

Therefore, in verses 15 and 16, we have 3 things in summary.

(1) **Therefore, we should lift up our sacrifice, that is, the praise of our lips.** We don't bring animals, or beads, or physical tangible objects, to present to the Lord. We offer to Him the praises of our lips. That is our sacrifice. **Confessing**, notice the participle, **While confessing to the name of Jesus.** To His name. I belong to Jesus Christ. I confess to His name and I identify with Him.

(2) He also says, secondly, **And do not forget doing well and sharing.** Two terms that are associated with relationships in the body of Christ. *Doing well* means *looking out for other people*. Look out for your brother and sister and share. Ready to lend a hand. Help out. Wherever the need is, if there is a need. **Because God is being well pleased with such a sacrifice as this.** And that is the key. God is pleased with that. That is our

second sacrifice. The first sacrifice is with our lips and the second sacrifice is identifying with those around us who are in need, in making sacrifice in contributing to their life.

(3) The third one is in verse 17. He says, **Be obedient to the ones who are your leaders.** This is making reference to present time. In verse 7 it was leaders in past time, same word for *leaders*. The word for *obedience* is the word *persuasion*. The connection is that as your leaders - the ones who are leading you now - share with the persuasion of the faith of the leaders before that we are to yield to that. Yield to the leaders who are attempting to try to minister the things of Christ and bring forth that life of faith and persuasion from those who have come before us. See how verse 7 and verse 17 fit in. Be persuaded by the persuasion that the leaders are bringing to you about the faith of those who have come before. because the leaders are all connected. Same truth. Same faith. And as I said earlier in the first hour, there are two kinds of faith and you have to figure out which one a person is presenting to you. Either one that you practice with your mind, or one that comes from God.

Obey, number one, and the second is the word *yield*. If I were to put it in paraphrase it would be, "Give them a break."

The reason is because **They themselves are watching on behalf of your souls.** He is not watching their souls, but on behalf of their souls. He is praying for them. God's Spirit many times - not just with those who lead up front - but God's Spirit many times will touch people to pray; and sometimes it is early in the morning, sometimes it is late at night, sometimes it is by the hour because God lays on your heart a need, or God lays on your heart some things that people are going through and your identification with them. Those who are in positions of leadership, God wakes them up sometimes, or sometimes God doesn't let them sleep because He says, "There is need of prayer."

So, obey them, yield to them, for they themselves are watching on behalf of your souls and you are to obey, you are to yield - purpose: *in order that*, **ἵνα** (hina) clause - **in order that they may do this with joy and not groaning.** If you cause the ones who are leading you to be in stress and difficulty, this will not be profitable for you. It will be unprofitable.

And I know of people in the past who have said, "Oh! You look burdened down and you need to be at peace, and you need to trust the Lord." I am looking at the very person who is giving me all the difficulty. And I am a person attempting to yield to the Lord for Him to use me in the body of Christ for the purpose for which He has, whatever that might be. If it is in a position of leadership, basically the Bible says to give him a break. Back off a little bit. It has nothing to do with being up front, in front of people preaching. It is a 24-hour a day job, function, vocation, calling. It is not on the clock. There is no clock. When God lays on your heart to get up and pray, or God lays on your heart there is no time to go to sleep you must pray, or pray during day, on behalf of people's souls. That is just a family function, that is just what we do.

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So, he is saying yield to the persuasion. Yield to them. Give them a break. Back off a little bit, hold them accountable. It is almost like the Lord saying, "You don't understand, I got him on the clock 24 hours a day, give him a break." If it is important, if it is led by the Lord great, if it is not, he doesn't need the added stress.

Next week, we will finish out, Lord willing, the book of Hebrews. Let's close with prayer.