

**Sections: (titles are from the New American Standard Bible and the MacArthur Study Bible)**

Vs 1-6: **Concluding Moral directions**

Vs 7-14: **Concluding Religious Directions**

Vs 15-19: **God-pleasing sacrifices**

Vs 20-25: **Benediction**

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Vs 1-6: **Concluding Moral directions**

**Hebrews 13:1-6:**

*Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say,*

*"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?"*

- I notice this sermon letter now seem more like a letter. It has seemed mostly like a sermon for the previous 12 chapters
- Verse 1 is about love. Let love continue
  - This implies there was love before
  - Common New Testament theme: Rom 12:10; 1 Thess 4:9; 1 Pet 1:22
- Brotherly love which is the Greek noun by which we get Philadelphia
- Verse 2 is interesting. This give some ideas into the study of Angels (Angelology) as well as more moral direction
- This happened to Abraham in Genesis 18 and 19.
- Jesus said when we serve people we are serving Him in Matt 25:35
- Verse 3: this could imply that some of them are in prison
- He says "as though you are in prison with them"

## Hebrews 13

- →do I share in people's suffering in this way?
- Heb 10:34 ref. their property seizing
- Verse 4: marriage:
  - Held in honor
    - This could be translated "of great worth" or "valuable"
    - This is true among "all"
    - →I fear that marriage is losing its' honor among American Christians and the pseudo-Christians
    - →we joke about marriage
    - →we joke about our spouses
    - →Christians copy the world and joke about premarital sex, etc
  - The marriage bed is to stay pure, undefiled.
  - Adulterers: **μοιχός, οὔ, ὁ** literally *adulterer, (unlawful) lover* (1C 6.9); metaphorically *one unfaithful to God* (JA 4.4)<sup>1</sup>
  - Fornicators: **πόρνος, ου, ὁ** in the NT a man who has sexual intercourse with a prostitute *fornicator, sexually immoral person* (1C 5.9); distinguished from **μοιχός** (*adulterer*) in 1C 6.9 and **ἀρσενοκοίτης** (*sodomite or homosexual*) in 1T 1.10<sup>2</sup>
  - Similar terms: An adulterer is also a fornicator but a fornicator may not be an adulterer
    - This is strong: There is a judgment for not being pure and sexual sin is different than others ins. (1 Cor 5,6 and 7)
- It is the love of money that is the root of all evil
  - →I think that is very true. Think about how much tragedy that has happened for money
- Verse 6: we must trust God

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<sup>1</sup>Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (266). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

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<sup>2</sup>Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (324). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

## Hebrews 13

- Verse 5 quotes: Deut 31:6, 8; Josh 1:5
- Verse 6 is from Psalm 118:6

### Vs 7-14: **Concluding Religious Directions**

#### **Hebrews 13:7-14:**

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup> We have an altar from which those who serve the tent<sup>[a]</sup> have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup> For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.*

- Verse 7 and 17 deal with leaders specifically
- “imitate their faith”
  - → leaders ought to make sure their faith is worthy of imitation
- Verse 9 is Christological statement
  - It seems random but nevertheless very important and very powerful
  - It fits with verse 9
- Jesus is the same and the teachings don't change
- Don't be carried away
  - → think about this in today's world. The church is having trouble staying committed to orthodox teachings. We are even having trouble committing on the Trinity and the Virgin Birth

Verse 9 could be referencing certain mystery religions such as the ones referenced in Col 2:16 and other places in the NT: Eph 4:14; 5:6; Jude 12

- Verses 10-14 seem to come back to the normal material of Hebrews: this is comparing Jesus to the OT sacrifices
  - John 19:17: Jesus was outside the gate

### Vs 15-19: **God-pleasing sacrifices**

**Hebrews 13:15-19:**

<sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

<sup>18</sup> Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. <sup>19</sup> I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

- Offer praise, worship the Lord but do this “through Him.” “through Christ”
  - we can only approach the Lord through Christ
- Share/be Christ-like
- Verse 17 connects with verse 7: leaders
  - James 3:1: teachers will be judged more strictly
  - Watch over souls as one who gives account
  - Leaders must remember this--- even deacons
- So: verse 18, pray
  - Honorable conduct
  - Be restored, see you again?

Vs 20-25: **Benediction**

**Hebrews 13:20-25:**

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us<sup>[b]</sup> that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Final Greetings**

<sup>22</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. <sup>23</sup> You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. <sup>24</sup> Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. <sup>25</sup> Grace be with all of you.

## Hebrews 13

- Verse 20-21 starts a common NT benediction with worship
- Verse 22-24 brings up some other comments about what has been written and about Timothy
- Verse 25: final closing

### **IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary:**

*13:23. If, as is likely, Timothy was arrested under Nero in Rome, he may well have been released on Nero's death, because the Praetorian Guard and the Roman aristocracy had long before lost faith in Nero's policies. This background would set the letter in the late 60s (see introduction).*

*13:24–25. "Those from Italy" could mean people from Italy now living elsewhere, possibly sending greetings back to Italy; most commentators who take this view think it refers to Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2). More likely—especially given the probable place of Timothy's imprisonment (13:23)—is the view that he sends greetings from saints in Italy, and that the letter is written from Rome.<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>3</sup>Keener, C. S., & InterVarsity Press. (1993). *The IVP Bible background commentary : New Testament* (Heb 13:23-24). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.