

Hebrews

Chapter Thirteen

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Thirteen

SUMMARY: Verses 1-25

1. This chapter is one filled with practical advice.
2. Love each other. Be nice to strangers. Don't forget about folks who are in prison or being tortured. Marriage is a good thing, so don't fornicate in your free time. And watch out that you don't get greedy.
3. Christians should also listen to the folks in charge. That means that they don't need to be branching off and following all kinds of "strange teachings."
4. You are encouraged to imitate the faith of your leaders.
5. Jesus is always the same. He never changes.
6. Paul encourages them to be aware of strange teachings. These are teachings that are contrary to Jesus' finished work on the cross.
7. They also shouldn't worry about which foods they should and shouldn't be eating.
8. Back in the old days, the high priest would burn animal sacrifices outside of camp. That's just like Jesus. He was crucified outside of the city of Jerusalem, and He saved the people, too.
9. Christians should do just as He did. They need to take a stroll outside of camp and come to where Jesus is. Right now, Christians may be homeless, but soon they'll score the keys to a new place in a pretty exclusive city.
10. The sacrifice we offer today to God is not blood. That sacrifice has been offered to God already. Now we offer the sacrifice of praise. It's the fruit of our lips giving thanks.
11. We are exhorted to obey our leaders and those in authority.
12. Let Jesus continually work in you and equip you to do His will. This infers that Christianity is an ongoing, maturing relationship with Jesus. Your faith is to never be stagnant.
13. Grace is to always be with you.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. In the opening list of practical advice, which one comes easy for you? Which one is a struggle for you?
3. Can you say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Elaborate.
4. Is there anyone's faith you are imitating? Who? Why does their faith inspire you?
5. Do you struggle with people in authority? Explain.
6. Discuss the fruit of your lips being a sacrifice God is pleased with.

APPLICATION

1. List areas where you need God's help - areas that may spark fear in you. Pray over those and stand in confidence that God will indeed help you.
2. In #2 above - what can you do to strengthen any weak area in the practical advice?
3. Are there any beliefs you have, from upbringing or any place else, which you hold that may be contrary to the work Jesus did for you on the cross? Change those now. Decide to only believe what Jesus has done for you.

