

Hebrews 13:18-25

REVIEW...

- WHO – Jesus – who is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING [NINE ways] ...
- HOW - the HALL of FAITH – that PROVE the JUST shall LIVE by [NINETEEN examples] ...
- NOW – Because it is not just about those who came before – this is OUR race to run!
- WHAT – as a RESULT of our WALK of FAITH – we are to LIVE in LOVE...
 - REMEMBER – those who rule over us – who speak the Word of God to us...
 - HOLD onto – the Word of God – because like Jesus is NEVER changes...
 - Do not FORGET – to live as a SACRIFICE – in praise and in giving...
 - OBEY – rulers because they watch out for us – so let us let them lead with JOY!

COMPLETE IN CHRIST... (4 POINTS)

- 1ST – PRAY FOR PASTORS... vs. 18-19
 - 1st – PRAY... 18
 - PRAY – 87x in NT – to have a conversation with God...
 - The typical view of PRAYER is coming to God with a list – needs / wants...
 - It is treated as a ritual – part of what God expects a Christian to do...
 - As if somehow if we recite some words to God once or twice a day – it is enough...
 - Rarely do we take the time in PRAYER to listen – it is a one way conversation...
 - It makes you wonder – if no one is answering – is anyone listening – **Luke 18:11**
 - PRAYER is not a ritual – it should be a conversation...
 - If I told you I had a VERY good friend – who I NEVER talk to – you might think that odd!
 - **John 15:15** – “No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends...”
 - God desires to hear from us – build a relationship with His kids!
 - But how can we have a relationship with God – if we never get a chance to talk to Him...
 - Taking the time to listening to the wisdom He has for our lives!
 - When we have a good day / when we have a hard day...
 - When we do not know what to do next – find a quiet place and PRAY!
 - PRAYER is not something we do – it is the definition of how we live our life!
 - I Thessalonians 5:17 – “Pray without ceasing...”
 - 2nd – Pray for RULERS... vs. 18
 - Pray for us...
 - PRAY – [imperative] we are commanded to ALWAYS [present] pray for our leaders!
 - We saw last week that we are to REMEMBER our PASTORS – following their example...
 - We are also to OBEY them – because they watch out for us...
 - But here we are told we MUST also PRAY for them – because they are under attack!
 - On the FRONT lines...
 - One of the hardest teachings I ever gave – was at a church who had to REMOVE their pastor...
 - It was a young flourishing church – full of young families – growing...
 - But the pastor got involved in drugs – and it took him out of the ministry!
 - Satan is like a Lion – and he is determined to devour – destroy lives – **I Peter 5:8**
 - Satan is the accuser - he desires to condemn – **Revelation 12:10**
 - And he would love nothing more than to take down a PASTOR!
 - There is NO DOUBT – satan has a target on painted on EVERY pastor - **Luke 22:31**
 - Because if he can STUMBLE a SHEPHERD – he will scatter the FLOCK!
- 3rd – Pray for CONFIDENCE... vs. 18

- [Because] we are confident [perfect] that we have [perfect] a good conscience...
 - The Author was ALWAYS [perfect] CONFIDENT that he had the good conscience...
 - Speaking of his MOTIVE – he had a heart to LOVE and SERVE the people of God!
 - Because the MOTIVE of a TRUE pastor is to LIVE for the SHEEP!
 - **II Corinthians 12:15** – “I will gladly spend myself and all I have for you.”
- We PRAY our PASTORS have the same heart...
 - I have seen pastors who own jets they use to fly all over the world...
 - Own designer suites – wear Rolex watches – drive around in luxury cars!
 - Too many pastors today abuse the authority they are given in the church...
 - They use the pulpit as a means for personal gain - taking advantage of people...
 - Their MOTIVE is NOT to love and feed the people – they come to cheat them...
 - The result is people are wary of the church - the Gospel message become tainted...
 - Those pastors who take from the people - fall under the judgment of God!
 - **Ezekiel 34:2** - “Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Should shepherds not feed their sheep?”
- o 4th – Pray for GOOD... vs. 18
 - In all things desiring [present] to live GOOD [καλῶς] ...
 - The Author had the right MOTIVE – and his DESIRE was that his life reflected that...
 - But just because the MOTIVE is right – does not mean our lives will be GOOD!
 - Jesus makes us GOOD...
 - LIVE [passive] good – is not something we do – it is something that is DONE to us!
 - Our NATURE is to only want to serve ourselves – self centered...
 - Only God can change our LIVES so we live to serve others...
 - Both the will and ability to serve comes from God and God alone!
 - Therefore we PRAY for our PASTORS – that God will WORK in their LIVES!
 - **Philippians 2:13** – “God is working in you - giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.”
- o 5th – Pray for RESTORATION... vs. 19
 - I especially urge you to do this - that I may be restored to you the sooner!
 - The Author was NOT with the Jews who he was writing to...
 - We are not sure why – perhaps he was in PRISON – or SICK...
 - But he desired for the church to PRAY – so he could RETURN to them quickly!
 - Never far away...
 - This spoke to my heart – as I never like to miss a Bible Study...
 - No matter what the weather – or how I feel – I want to be at CHURCH!
 - We will be going to the US for TWO weeks in February – wedding / family reunion...
 - Know that the whole time – I will be missing being here at church!
 - PRAY the Lord allows us to come back QUICKLY – no quarantine – so we can be here again!
- 2ND – ENDURE THE WORD... vs. 22-23
 - o 1st - The APPEAL... vs. 22
 - I appeal to you brethren – [endure] the word of exhortation...
 - For I have written to you in few words [around TEN thousand]!
 - The APPEAL [παρακαλέω] – to be called to come along side...
 - The Author had written a FEW words – the book of Hebrews – to ENCOURAGE the brethren...
 - But his concern was that they would not be able to ENDURE the WORD he gave them!
 - Hebrews is NOT a light book – it contains FIVE of the strongest WARNINGS in the Bible...
 - And people do NOT like being WARNED – they often REFUSE to listen!
 - o 2nd - ENDURE the Word... vs. 23

- We live in a world where people get hostile when they are CONFRONTED...
- People do NOT want to hear about CONSEQUENCES or JUDGEMENT...
- All they want to be told is God will ACCEPT them no matter what they do...
- And sadly there are a LOT of churches who are willing to give that to them!
- **II Timothy 4:3** – “The time is coming when people will no longer ENDURE [same word] sound teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.”
- People may not LIKE it when we give the WORD – especially if they need to be CORRECTED...
- No one wants to be told they are WRONG – they would rather NOT see their FAULTS!
- But that does not mean we back down – we tell the TRUTH – in LOVE – **Ephesians 4:15**
- We do not COMPROMISE the definition of SIN – RIGHT is RIGHT / WRONG is WRONG...
- And people need to KNOW – because SIN will keep them from Jesus!
- We APPEAL to them to ENDURE what we have to say – because it is what they NEED!
- **Proverbs 27:6** - “Faithful are the wounds of a friend...”
- o 3rd - Accountable to others... vs. 23
 - Know our brother Timothy has been set free - with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly...
 - TIMOTHY – it is generally assumed this is a reference to the traveling companion of Paul...
 - This is one of the main reasons many believe Paul is the author of Hebrews...
 - If so – it would appear TIMOTHY was arrested – perhaps in ROME [vs 24] ...
 - And the Author who was ALSO in chains – Paul – **Hebrews 10:34**
 - Upon THEIR release might [subjunctive] travel back to Jerusalem [Jews]!
 - Personal accountability...
 - The reason for them coming to the believers – was to SEE their FAITH!
 - It is easy to make our lives look GOOD from a DISTANCE...
 - We can carefully craft our FACEBOOK posts – make sure only the GOOD details get out...
 - But it is much harder to HIDE our FAULTS when we are up close!
 - We need to have personal ACCOUNTABILITY – we need to be there for each other...
 - Because we all have bad days - we all make mistakes in life...
 - But God has surrounded us with Godly men and women who are there to help...
 - By giving us ACCOUNTABILITY - being willing to ask us the HARD questions...
 - They are there to EXHORT us – stand with us – give us the WORD...
 - They are there to PRAY for us - and point us back to Jesus!
 - **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** - “Two are better than one... if one person falls the other can reach out and help - but people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble.”
- 3RD – GREET THE SAINTS... vs. 24
 - o 1st – Who to Greet...
 - Greet all your LEADERS and all the SAINTS there...
 - GREET [imperative] – we are commanded to GREET the leaders and saints...
 - The word GREET – can mean to give a warm embrace – a HUG...
 - It carries the idea of having a genuine FRIENDSHIP with other believers!
 - Church is NOT meant to be a ROUTINE – check in / check out every Sunday...
 - Church is meant to be a FAMILY – where we come together with those we LOVE!
 - **Psalm 133:1** – “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
 - o 2nd - Get what you give...
 - The believers from Italy send you their greetings...
 - Another reference that leads many to believe the letter was written by Paul...
 - Who we know was imprisoned TWICE in Rome [Italy] – **Acts 28:30 / II Timothy 1:8**
 - Making it likely Paul wrote this LETTER to the JEWS from ROME!

- Do not miss – when the Jews GREETED other SAINTS [not just Jews] ...
- That was when the SAINTS from Italy [gentiles] would GREET them!
- It can be easy to think – no one says hi to me when I come to church...
- We might feel like we are NOT welcome – as though we do NOT belong!
- Rather than waiting for someone to GREET us – we should GREET others...
- It does NOT matter if we know them – that is HOW we get to KNOW them...
- And when we REACH out to others – we will find they reach out to us!
- **4TH – COMPLETE IN CHRIST... vs. 20-21 / 25**
 - o As the Author concludes this POWERFUL book...
 - Having SHOWN Jesus is BETTER than everyone and everything...
 - That we NEED to walk by FAITH – to get access to Jesus...
 - And RUN our race with endurance – looking to the PRIZE that is HEAVEN...
 - He CONCLUDES by telling us how we are now COMPLETE in Jesus – SIX ways!
 - o 1st – The God of peace... vs. 20
 - Now may the God of peace...
 - Before we were saved - we lived in certain expectation of Gods wrath and judgment
 - There was no peace in our lives - only the fear certain JUDGEMENT - **Hebrews 10:27**
 - When we have Jesus – walk by FAITH - we have peace with God!
 - We have true peace - rest in the knowledge we are forgiven – at the END of our RACE!
 - **Ephesians 2:14** – “For [Jesus] Himself is our peace...”
 - o 2nd – The resurrection... vs. 20
 - Who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead...
 - BROUGHT UP – to lead – to bring to a HIGHER place!
 - God resurrected Jesus – so He could LEAD us to a HIGHER place – HEAVEN...
 - And just as Jesus was RESURRECTED from the dead – God will also RESURRECT us!
 - **II Corinthians 5:1** – “For we know that if our earthly house [our body] is destroyed - we have a building from God - a house not made with hands - eternal in the heavens.”
 - o 3rd – The Great Shepherd... vs. 20
 - That great Shepherd of the sheep...
 - SHEPHERD – the one who watches over and keep the SHEEP safe...
 - Jesus is not just a SHEPHERD – He uniquely is called the GREAT shepherd!
 - As we WALK by FAITH – we are given a GREAT shepherd to protect us!
 - The Lord is my SHEPHERD...
 - **Psalms 23:1** – “The LORD is my shepherd - I shall not want...”
 - The WORD SHEPHERD is not a NOUN – it is a VERB – it is what Jesus does...
 - He is the one who ALWAYS protects and provides for us!
 - As a RESULT we NEVER want – we NEVER will lack for anything in this life!
 - Jesus gives us EVERYTHING we need – including FORGIVENESS from our sins!
 - **John 10:11** – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”
 - o 4th – Blood of the covenant... vs. 20
 - Through the blood of the everlasting covenant...
 - As we have looked at previously – the PRICE for SIN is death – **Romans 6:23**
 - The BLOOD of animals could only COVER sin – they could not CHANGE the sinner...
 - ONLY the BETTER blood of Jesus has the power to REMOVE our sins...
 - ONLY through the BLOOD of Jesus can our INSIDE be purified...
 - As Jesus does not just change our ACTIONS – He also changes our DESIRES!
 - **Hebrews 10:17** – “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
 - EVERLASTING covenant...

- The OLD covenant was never meant to last – it was NOT everlasting – **Hebrews 8:13**
- But the NEW covenant – the one created in the BLOOD of Jesus - is the LAST covenant...
- The BLOOD of Jesus is the ONLY way to be FORGIVEN – no other way – **Galatians 2:21**
- o 5th – The will of God... vs. 21
 - Make you COMPLETE...
 - Make you complete in every good work...
 - COMPLETE – 13x in NT – to repair and make useful again...
 - GOOD [ἀγαθός] – refers to our HEART – or morals...
 - Sin BROKE us – separated us from God – and made us USELESS...
 - But God REPAIRS our HEART through the BLOOD of Jesus – so we are USEFUL to Him again!
 - Working in you...
 - To do His will - working in you what is well pleasing in His sight - through Jesus Christ...
 - o To whom be glory forever and ever. Amen!
 - o There are two ways we can KNOW the WILL of God – SPECIFIC / GENERAL...
 - o The GENERAL WILL of God speaks of principals that should guide our lives...
 - o The phrase - the WILL of God - is used 23 times in the New Testament...
 - o Of those - four occurrences HINT at what the GENERAL WILL of God for us...
 - o **I Thessalonians 5:18** – it is the WILL of God that we give THANKS in everything...
 - o **I Peter 2:15** – it is the WILL of God we silence ignorant men by doing good...
 - o **I Peter 3:17** – it is the WILL of God we SUFFER for going good...
 - o **I Thessalonians 4:3** – this is the WILL of God - our SANCTIFICATION...
 - The SPECIFIC will of God speaks of individual choices we have in life – go left or right...
 - o We can know the SPECIFIC WILL of God for our WALK by being transformed!
 - o **Romans 12:2** – “Do not be conformed to this world - but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God...”
 - o It is really easy to be CONFORMED - get caught up in cares / concerns of this world...
 - o But if we conform to the world – then we will NOT be transformed by Jesus!
 - o But the BLOOD of Jesus can TRANSFORM our mind...
 - o So we know the good / acceptable / and perfect WILL of God for our lives!
 - o As Jesus works in us – what is WELL PLEASING in his sight!
- o 6th – Grace be with you... vs. 25
 - Grace be with you all. Amen!
 - The conclusion of the letter – THE GRACE be with you all...
 - Because the ONLY way we can WALK by FAITH – RUN the RACE – LIVE in LOVE...
 - HOLD onto the Word – ENDURE the exhortation...
 - Is to realize that we CANNOT – we do NOT have the POWER to live for Jesus...
 - But the moment we HUMBLE ourselves and truly realize that – we find GRACE – **James 4:6**
 - And it is by the POWER of the GRACE we CAN – GRACE that we ALL need daily!
 - To which we all say AMEN – from the HEBREW – simply means let it be so!