

Hebrews 13:1-6

REVIEW...

- Having seen Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
 - The author declared – the JUST shall LIVE by FAITH – **Habakkuk 2:4**
 - The HALL of FAITH – EXAMPLES that PROVE to us what it means to WALK by FAITH!
- RUN the RACE with ENDURANCE...
 - Like any good MARATHON – it is easy to START a RACE – but it is HARD to FINISH!
 - We were given SEVEN aids to help us ENDURE – and RUN to FINISH line!
 - The final one compared TWO mountains – SINAI and ZION...
 - Sinai represents the Law of God – those who try and follow rules will NOT finish the RACE...
 - Zion represents the Grace of God – God transforming us from the inside out...
 - It is ONLY by GRACE of God – we can serve him acceptably – and finish our RACE!
- As we come to FINAL chapter of the book...
 - The Author concludes by encouraging us to LIVE in LOVE...
 - Because without LOVE – nothing we do for Christ matters!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER... (6 POINTS)

- 1st – THE COMMAND TO LOVE... vs. 1-3
 - 1st – ABIDE... vs. 1
 - LET brotherly LOVE continue...
 - There are only TWO words in **verse 1** in the GREEK – LET / LOVE...
 - LET [μένω] – is the word ABIDE – a familiar word...
 - We are told we must ABIDE in Jesus - apart from Him we can do nothing - **John 15:4**
 - Including LOVE - we must ABIDE in Jesus in order for us to be able to LOVE others!
 - LOVE must be the driving motive behind everything we do as believers...
 - Because no matter what we DO – if it does NOT come from LOVE – it means NOTHING!
 - **I Corinthians 13:3** – “[Even if I give all I have] to feed the poor, [and] I give my body to be burned, but do not have LOVE, it profits me nothing.”
 - Why do we need to ABIDE...
 - Because we MUST let brotherly LOVE CONTINUE...
 - LET - [present imperative] – this is a CONSTANT command...
 - LOVE is NOT optional in the life of a believer – it should be what DEFINES us!
 - **John 13:35** – “All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another.”
 - We are not just to LOVE – when we FEEL like it – or when people DESERVE it...
 - We are COMMANDED to ALWAYS love our BROTHERS / SISTERS in Christ...
 - Because we are IDENTIFIED as children of God – through our LOVE...
 - The ONLY way we can LOVE – CONTINUALLY – is by ABIDING in Jesus!
 - **I John 4:7** – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”
 - 2nd – Love our BROTHER... vs. 1
 - There are FOUR words in GREEK that are translated as LOVE...
 - [Ερως] - sexual love - the only one of the loves never mentioned in the Bible...
 - [στοργή] - family love - the love of a sibling / parent / relative - Romans 12:10
 - [ἀγάπη] - perfect love – used over 200 times in NT...
 - [φίλος] - friendship - used 25 times in NT!
 - Brotherly LOVE [φιλαδελφία] – a compound word – LOVE [φίλος] brother [ἀδελφός]

- We are to be FRIENDLY to our BROTHERS in Christ – by putting them FIRST!
- **Romans 12:10** – “With brotherly love [same word] and kindly affection [family love] to one another - in honor giving preference to one another.”
- On any given Sunday – we might ask how someone is doing – but do we really care...
- We might ask because we feel we have to – but there is no genuine LOVE!
- People can tell if we really CARE – or are just going through the motions...
- People will not CARE what we say – until they are sure that we CARE...
- We tend to think the world revolves around us – it is easy to ignore the needs of others...
- Which is why we NEED to have brotherly LOVE – and become others centered!
- **Philippians 2:4** – “Do not look out only for your own interests but take an interest in others.”

▪ Perfect LOVE...

- **I Thessalonians 4:9** – “Concerning brotherly [φιλαδελφία] love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love [ἀγάπη] one another.”
- No one needs to TEACH us how to have brotherly LOVE – we already know...
- It is treating others the same way we want to be treated – **Matthew 7:12**
- But God has TAUGHT us an even GREATER love!
- [φίλος] LOVE means that we like our friend - which is good – but not enough...
- Because those who do not know Jesus - will still [φίλος] those who [φίλος] them back...
- [ἀγάπη] LOVE means we LOVE our enemies – do good those who HATE us – **Luke 6:27**
- That the world NEVER would never do – and it will prove we are the children of God!
- **Luke 6:35** – “Love [ἀγάπη] your enemies... and you will be sons of the Most High.”

• **2ND – LOVE STRANGERS... vs. 2**

o 1st – Do NOT forget...

- Do not FORGET to entertain STRANGERS...
- A SECOND way we can show LOVE – is by not forgetting STRANGERS...
- FORGET [present / imperative] – we are COMMANDED never to FORGET strangers...
- STRANGERS [φιλοξενία] - a compound word – LOVE [φίλος] strangers [ξένος]
- So we are not only to LOVE our BROTHERS in Christ...
- We are ALSO commanded to LOVE everyone else – those who are NOT in Christ!

o 2nd – Entertaining Angels...

- For by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels...
- Abraham invited the three STRANGERS to have a SNACK – **Genesis 18**
- His idea of giving them a SNACK – was a full blown FEAST!
- We are not told that Abraham knew who the THREE men were – TWO angels and the LORD...
- It is possible he knew but more likely that he was just being HOSPITABLE!
- **I Peter 4:9** – “Be hospitable [love strangers] to one another without grumbling.”
- We must be HOSPITABLE – practically showing LOVE - even to STRANGERS...
- Not out of OBLIGATION – no GRUMBLING [I have to do this] – but out of genuine LOVE!
- Not that we are likely to ever entertain angels literally – but you never know!
- When we take the time to give food the hungry and drink to the thirsty...
- By doing so we show the LOVE of God to others – the goodness of God – **John 13:35**
- Through which we now have the opportunity to tell them about Jesus – **Romans 2:4**
- More than that - we when we care for strangers we are actually ministering to Jesus!
- **Matthew 25:40** - “[Jesus] will answer and say to them – Assuredly I say to you - inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren you did it to Me.”

• **3RD – REMEMBER PRISONERS... vs. 3**

o 1st – Remember prisoners...

- Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated...

- REMEMBER – [present / imperative] – we are commanded to ALWAYS remember....
- PRISONERS – those who have been arrested – as if we were CHAINED with them!
- A THIRD way we can show our LOVE – is towards those in PRISON...
 - This is definitely out of our COMFORT zone – people in PRISON belong in PRISON...
 - We tend to think they are PAYING the price for their CHOICES – no need to VISIT...
 - But PRISONS are some of the best MISSIONS fields...
 - No one needs to convince them they are SINNERS – they are OPEN to needing a SAVIOR!
 - My Father went into prisons for more than THIRTY years...
 - It was not a glamorous way to serve – or easy – hardened prisoners...
 - But as a result I do not think I could count the number of people he led to Jesus!
 - We are called to LOVE one another – not just when it is convenient or easy...
 - There is great joy as we get to pour the LOVE of Jesus into the lives of others!
 - Proverbs 11:25 – “Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”
- o 2nd – Body of Christ...
 - Since you yourselves are in the body also...
 - We might never pay attention to our BIG TOE till we injure it – then that is all we think of...
 - Try running with an injured foot – and we realize EVERY part is necessary!
 - We all have our place within the BODY of Christ – a purpose God has given to us...
 - Each PERSON is vital for the church – the BODY of Christ – to function properly...
 - If any part is HURTING – or MISSING – the whole BODY suffers...
 - Since we are PART of the BODY – we are called to come along side others – even in PRISON...
 - Because although we each individual – we are all belong to CHRIST!
 - I Corinthians 12:26-27 – “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”
- 4TH – HONOR MARRIAGE... VS. 4
 - o 1st – Marriage is HONORABLE...
 - Marriage is honorable among all...
 - A FOURTH way we can show LOVE is by honoring MARRIAGE!
 - HONORABLE [τίμιος] – of great value – precious – VERY important...
 - Marriage is PERFECT – God created MARRIAGE before sin entered the world – **Genesis 2:18**
 - A LIFELONG relationship between ONE man and ONE woman...
 - That was MEANT to be a PICTURE of the LOVE of God!
 - God calls us His CHILDREN / He also calls us His BRIDE...
 - It is through marriage we understand how much our Heavenly Father loves us!
 - The [marriage] bed undefiled...
 - God intends intimate relationships to be ONLY for marriage...
 - The bed is undefiled / pure - ONLY in a lifelong relationship between a husband and wife...
 - Which means that if someone is struggling with purity – better to be MARRIED!
 - I Corinthians 7:9 – “For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”
 - Marriage ceremony...
 - I had someone once ask – is it necessary to have a WEDDING ceremony...
 - If two people love one another – is that not enough!
 - There is NO biblical layout for HOW [tradition] a WEDDING ceremony should take place...
 - But it is VERY important to have a WEDDING – make a VOW before God and men...
 - It is what establishes a LIFELONG covenant between one man and one woman...
 - It is also required by the government – which we are to submit to – **Romans 13:1**
 - o 2nd – God will JUDGE...

- Fornicators and adulterers God will judge...
 - FORNICATORS [πόρνος] – refers to ANY sexual act outside of MARRIAGE...
 - Sex immorality sells - the world / satan do their best to convince us it is normal...
 - Every time we turn on the TV / every time we pick up a magazine...
 - Everyone is doing it - just this one time - it does not hurt anyone...
 - One day we will get married - is just an excuse to live in sin!
- ADULTERERS...
 - ADULTERERS – refers to having relationship with someone other than our SPOUSE...
 - The world / satan try to convince us the grass is GREENER on the other side!
 - There is no divorce here in the Philippines - yet so often the marriage is NOT honored...
 - I have met many couples who are MARRIED – yet have divorced each other in heart!
 - Men and women divorce - because they think it is going to make them happier...
 - More often than not because they have met someone else who makes them happy...
 - And at first it might seem like a good answer - we put our best faces on at first...
 - But over time they find they left one sinner - only to marry another sinner!
- God will JUDGE...
 - JUDGE [future / indicative] – a reference to one day standing before the JUDGEMENT seat!
 - **I Corinthians 6:9-10** – “Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators... nor adulterers... will inherit the kingdom of God.”
 - These are NOT unforgivable sins - but those who PRACTICE these things – **Galatians 5:21**
 - As believers – if we sin there should be remorse / confession / repentance – **I John 1:9**
 - If there is NO remorse – NO repentance for sin – there is GOOD reason for concern...
 - We cannot say we are saved and continue to live in a lifestyle of sin!
 - **I John 3:9** – “Whoever has been born of God does not [continue to] sin...”
- **5TH – BE CONTENT... vs. 5**
 - o 1st – Do not COVET...
 - Let your conduct be without covetousness...
 - A FIFTH way we show our LOVE – is by being CONTENT...
 - Let our CONDUCT – 13x in NT – speaks of our CHARACTER – who we are...
 - Without COVETOUSNESS [ἀφιλάργυρος] – 2x in NT – literally to NOT love silver [money] ...
 - **I Timothy 6:10** – “For the love of money [same root] is a root of all kinds of evil...”
 - Loving money is not THE EVIL - but it certainly can cause all kinds of EVIL!
 - The problem is people make MONEY their god – instead of Jesus!
 - We cannot dedicate our lives to MONEY and possessions – and to the Lord!
 - **Luke 6:24** - “No one can serve two masters... he will hate the one and love the other... You cannot serve God and [money]...”
 - o 2nd – Be CONTENT...
 - Be content with such things as you have...
 - CONTENT – [passive] to be enough – to be satisfied...
 - We are to be CONTENT – with whatever we CURRENTLY have...
 - Because God has promised to give us EVERYTHING we NEED– **Luke 12:31**
 - There is a BIG difference between NEED and WANT...
 - We all have a LOT of WANTS in life – but the question is do we NEED it...
 - When we are NOT content – think we NEED more - we are essentially calling God a liar!
 - The reason people give thousands of dollars every day to the Lotto...
 - They think if I had lots of money like the rich people – then I would be CONTENT!

- If we have food to eat / and clothing – that is enough – **I Timothy 6:8**
- Because when we came into this world – we had nothing...
- And when we leave – we are going to take absolutely nothing with us...
- So why do we waste time trying to get things that do not last - **Ecclesiastes 5:15**
- When the only thing in life that really matters – is knowing Jesus!

o 3rd – Jesus will NEVER leave us...

- For He Himself has said - I will never leave you nor forsake you – **Joshua 1:5**
 - We are ABLE to be CONTENT [passive] because of WHO is with us!
 - Often times we wonder if God can / will take care of our NEEDS...
 - God does not just want to provide for our NEEDS – He is WITH US...
 - And He desires to GIVE us – His whole KINGDOM - bless us beyond imagination!
 - **Luke 12:32** – “It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”
- Jesus gives us our desires...
 - As we ABIDE in Jesus – we can ask for anything we WANT and receive it – **John 15:7**
 - Because We are spending time with God – and therefore know what God wants...
 - Since the desire comes from God – we can be certain He will make it happen!
 - **Psalms 37:4** – “Delight yourself in the LORD, He will give you the desires of your heart.”

● 6TH – NEVER FEAR... vs. 6

o 1st – We BOLDLY say...

- We boldly say the LORD is my helper - I will NOT fear...
- **Psalms 118:6** – The LORD is on MY side – I am NEVER [imperfect] afraid...
- The final way we can show LOVE – is by NEVER having FEAR!
- If we stop to consider WHO is on our side – Jesus – who will NEVER leave us...
- Then we understand we NEVER have a reason to EVER be AFRAID!

o 2nd – What can man do to me...

- We HOLD back LOVE – out of FEAR of what someone might do to us...
- If we LOVE our BROTHERS in the church – maybe they might BETRAY us...
- If we LOVE strangers – they might try and HURT us...
- If we LOVE our SPOUSE – what if they do not LOVE us back...
- If we LOVE the Lord – what if He does not PROVIDE for our needs!
- **I John 4:18** – “There is no fear in love - but perfect love casts out fear.”
- When we walk in LOVE – there is no room for FEAR...
- Because we are NOT looking at what others will do to us...
- Instead we are living for what we can do for them – show them LOVE...
- The same kind of LOVE that Jesus – who is with us – commanded us to GIVE!
- **John 13:34** – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you!”