

Concluding Exhortations Various Admonitions & Benediction (Heb. 13:1-25)

Introduction

It is time for the author to conclude his epistle to these Hebrew Christians. The purpose of his writing has been to exhort them to maintain their faith in Christ (v. 22). In this letter, the author has

- ♦ presented the all-sufficient Christ
 - His humanity & His deity (1:1 – 2:18)
 - His perpetual priesthood (7:1-28)
- ♦ emphasized the attributes of the inferior covenant under Moses (10:1-4; cp. 8:6-7)
- ♦ warned his readers of the dangers of not growing (5:11-14)
- ♦ supplied saints with numerous examples of faith they can emulate (11:1-40)

In the last words of the letter, we find some closing admonitions. Though they cover various subjects, they all appear to focus on the relationships saints maintain in their lives... physical (vv. 1-6) as well as spiritual (vv. 7-17). The anonymous author then concludes with a benediction & final greetings (vv. 18-25).

Admonitions Re: Physical Relationships (Heb. 13:1-6)

1. What does the author say should “continue?” (v. 1) Was there already evidence of such affection among brethren? (cp. 6:10; 10:33-34)

2. What should Christians not neglect to do? (v. 2) What reason does the author give for not neglecting this important duty? Give other pertinent N.T. passages that discuss this topic. Thought question: do you think this “motivation” still applies to Christians today?

3. Who else should saints remember? (v. 3) What truth should motivate us to not neglect this duty? What did the Lord ever say about rendering such service?

4. What reminder does the author supply regarding marriage? (v. 4) How does this verse address a sexually promiscuous society (such as ours)?

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5. What does the author teach regarding personal "contentment?" (vv. 5-6; cp. Phil. 4:10-13) Why should Christians be "...free from the love of money?" (cp. 1 Tim. 6:6-10) *Thought question:* what tragedies result when we love money & what it can obtain too much? (cp. Lk. 12:13-21)

Admonitions Re: Spiritual Relationships (Heb. 13:7-17)

6. What are saints taught about their "rulers" or "leaders?" (v. 7) Who is the author talking about, and is there any indication they are alive or dead? What 2 things re: these men are encouraged?
7. What attribute about Jesus Christ is emphasized in v. 8? How does this contribute to our spiritual relationships?
8. What warnings are given about false religious doctrines? (vv. 9-14) What doctrine(s) do you think the author particularly has in mind? [*Hint: remember the epistle's theme*] What do you suppose is the point of v. 9? Before answering, consider 1 Cor. 8:8 and Rom. 14:17.
9. What "altar" is under consideration in v. 10? What is the point of v. 11, and the ensuing conclusion reached in v. 12? As a result, to what are saints exhorted in v. 14? Thought question: how might "...going outside the camp to Jesus" be a reproach? [*Again, think about the book's overall theme*]
10. What "sacrifices" are made at our "altar?" (v. 15-16) What should be the attitude of saints towards those who oversee them? (v. 17; cp. 1 Thess. 5:12-13)

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Benediction & Final Greetings (*Heb. 13:18-25*)

11. What does the author request for himself from these Jewish Christians? (v. 18) What apparently did he hope would happen soon? (v. 19)

12. In the author's final exhortation, what great truths about N.T. Christianity does he emphasize? (v. 20) As a result, to what are saints encouraged? (vv. 21-22)

13. Who is mentioned in v. 23, and how would he factor in the author's personal plans? Who else sent greetings in the letter? (v. 24)