

Maintaining Christian Living

Hebrews 13:1-25 ©1991 (Rev. 05,10)

Introduction: “In the midst of national crisis and cultural pressure, it can become easy to neglect social and personal development of the Christian life.” (Gromacki, p. 213) This is a conclusion chapter much like the one the Apostle Paul writes, (Bruce, p. 386)

Not many commentators understand how the chapter relates to the rest of the book. Some fail to say anything about this chapter. Some make statements that this chapter is, “the idea of maintenance” (Gromacki, p. 213), of “the worship of God acceptably,” (Hodges, p. 811) or of “complete devotion to the Lord,” (Hewitt, p. 204). But there are a few who understand how this chapter concludes the book by stating, it is “advice and instruction for those who will holdfast to the Christian faith,” (Ellingworth, p. 692); or it is the encouragement “to resent the shame and hardship brought about by following Christ,” (Dods, p. 375). The Christian life is understanding five perspectives.

1. TOWARD THE BRETHREN (13:1-3)

A. Love of the brethren, (13:1) (Gr. “philadelphia”)

Friendship with other Christians.

B. Hospitality for strangers, (13:2) (Gr. “philoxenias”)

Interaction with strangers for Christ.

C. Compassion for fellow suffering Christians, (13:3) (Gr. “kakouchoumenon”)

Remember those being “tormented” for the cause of Christ.

D. Do good and share, (13:16)

2. TOWARD SELF (13:4-6)

A. Purity in marriage, (13:4)

B. Contentment with what you have, (13:5)

3. TOWARD MANKIND, (13:6,9,13,16)

A. Do not fear what man can do to you, (13:6)

B. Do not be carried about by various and strange doctrines, (13:9)

C. Bear about His reproach before the world, (13:13)

D. Do good and share, (13:16)

4. TOWARD SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP (13:7,17,18)

A. Remember them that rule over you, (13:7)

B. Obey them that rule over you, (13:17)

C. Submit to them, (13:17)

D. Pray for them, (13:18)

5. TOWARD THE LORD (13:8,9,10,12,14,15)

A. Trust in Jesus' unchangeableness, (13:8)

B. Establish your heart in grace, (13:9)

C. Maintain the altar that we have, (13:10)

D. Live in the separated life Jesus already died to provide, (13:12)

E. Seek after the heavenly city to come, (13:14)

F. Let us offer the right kind of sacrifices to Him, (13:15)

Conclusion: The writer concludes in verses 20-25, with the request for us to (1.) be made complete in every good work to do His will working what is well pleasing in His sight, (13:20-21); and (2.) for us to bear with the word of exhortation, (13:22).

References:

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