

# Hebrews: A Bridge from the Old to the New

## Hebrews Chapter 13

### Christianity: A Superior Lifestyle

#### *In Relation to Others (Verses 1-3)*

- 1 Christianity is based on love <sup>1 Corinthians 13</sup>, especially in Christian relationships <sup>John 13:35, Romans 12:10, 1 Peter 1:22</sup>.
- 2 Hospitality <sup>Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Peter 4:9</sup> is an expression of love for people in general, and especially strangers <sup>Matthew 25:34-35</sup>. Sometimes, the strangers may be Heavenly <sup>Genesis 18:1-5, 19:1-3, Judges 6:11-24, 13:6-20</sup>.
- 3 Many first-century Messianic Jews were being persecuted, and the believers who escaped persecution were encouraged by Jesus <sup>Matthew 25:36</sup> to support those who faced torture and/or imprisonment <sup>Hebrews 10:34</sup>.

#### *In Relation to Ourselves (Verses 4-9)*

- 4 Marriage/sex (one flesh) were instituted by God <sup>Genesis 2:24, Malachi 2:15</sup>, who takes marriage so seriously that He commanded in the OT that adulterous and immoral people should die an earthly death <sup>Deuteronomy 22:22</sup> and proclaimed spiritual death for them in the NT <sup>1 Corinthians 6:9, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:5, Revelation 22:15</sup>.
- 5-6 A love of money is “a root of all kinds of evil” <sup>1 Timothy 6:9-10</sup> and not a trait for church leaders <sup>1 Timothy 3:1-3</sup>. In addition, believers are called to be content <sup>Philippians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 6:6-8</sup> with whatever they have, because God promised to provide all “needs” <sup>Philippians 4:1</sup>. In the first OT quote <sup>Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:5</sup> the author reminded believers that Jesus will always be with them <sup>John 14:16</sup>, and the second quote <sup>Psalms 118:6</sup> told them to be confident in God’s protection <sup>John 17:11-12</sup>, because He is the only one who is all-powerful <sup>1 John 4:4</sup>.
- 7-8 The author told believers (of the first century and throughout church history) to greet <sup>v.24</sup>, obey <sup>v.17</sup> and “imitate” the lives of their Godly pastors, by living in faith <sup>Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:2-3, Titus 1:5-9</sup> and teaching the Word of God <sup>Hebrews 4:12</sup>. The life of a pastor should be steady, reflecting the constancy of Jesus <sup>Psalms 102:27</sup>.
- 9 The “strange teachings” <sup>Ephesians 4:14</sup>, referred to as “false” <sup>Acts 20:29-30, Galatians 1:6-9</sup>, conflict with God’s Word. These teachers do not serve “our LORD”, but feed “their own appetites” <sup>Romans 16:17-18</sup>. The Mosaic Law regulated food <sup>Leviticus 11</sup>, but the New Covenant voided those laws <sup>Acts 10:9-16, Colossians 2:16-17, Hebrews 9:10</sup>.

#### *In Relation to God (Verses 10-21)*

- 10 This verse spoke of the altar, the offerer and the sacrifice in the OT that was compromised many times with sacrifices offered to idols. The compromising priests who ate those sacrifices <sup>1 Corinthians 9:13,10:18</sup> were not worthy to partake in the observation of the sacrifice of Jesus at the LORD’s Supper <sup>1 Corinthians 11:23-32</sup>.

**11-14** These verses summarized the theme of Hebrews: moving from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant, from the repetition of animal sacrifices to the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus, and from the earthly city of Jerusalem to the new and eternal Jerusalem <sup>Hebrews 11:10,14,16</sup>. On the Day of Atonement, the blood from the sacrificed animals was carried into the “Most Holy Place” and the bodies taken “outside the camp” to be burned <sup>Leviticus 16:27</sup>. Jesus, the ultimate atoning sacrifice, was crucified outside Jerusalem <sup>John 19:17</sup>, and in order to become His follower, a person must figuratively join Him outside the camp of the world <sup>Luke 9:23</sup>.

**15-16** God wants all followers to offer a “sacrifice of praise” <sup>Psalms 54:6</sup>. The OT believers were required to offer sacrificial animal/grain offerings through the Levitical priests, but the NT saints are priests <sup>1 Peter 2:4-5,9</sup> who spiritually offer sacrifices of their own bodies <sup>Romans 12:1</sup>, which are fragrant, acceptable and pleasing gifts to God <sup>Philippians 4:18</sup>. Fruit is the result of actions born from faith, and can be good or bad <sup>Matthew 7:16-20</sup>, depending what the basis of the faith is. The sacrifices of praise that please God (and result in good fruit: “fruit of the lips” <sup>Hosea 14:2</sup>) can only occur if they are accompanied by loving action <sup>Isaiah 58:6-7, James 1:27</sup>.

**17** A Christian’s responsibility to submit to Jesus as LORD <sup>John 14:15,23</sup> leads to submission to others God places in positions of authority, for example: parent <sup>Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20</sup>, husband <sup>Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18</sup>, boss/master <sup>Ephesians 6:5-6, Colossians 3:22, 1 Peter 2:18</sup>, secular leader <sup>Romans 13:1-5, 1 Peter 2:13-17</sup> and pastor <sup>1 Peter 5:5</sup>. This verse emphasizes the role of pastors, who God expects to lead the people with great integrity <sup>Acts 20:28</sup>, because they will be held to a special accountability before Jesus <sup>1 Corinthians 4:1-5</sup>. Similarly, Jesus exhorts those in the “flock” to positively support and treat their pastor with respect and love <sup>1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</sup>.

**18-19** The author showed his confidence in his work <sup>Acts 23:1</sup>, but asked for intercessory prayer <sup>1 Thessalonians 5:25</sup> for strength to battle against the potential to fall and for God’s help in returning to his audience <sup>Philemon 1:22</sup>.

**20-21** This is a benediction capturing the main themes of the book: peace <sup>Romans 15:33</sup>, the sacrificial blood of Jesus & the new covenant <sup>Matthew 26:28</sup>, Jesus as Shepherd <sup>Psalms 23</sup>, Christ’s resurrection <sup>Acts 2:24</sup>, God’s work in the believer leading to spiritual deeds <sup>2 Corinthians 9:8</sup> & maturity <sup>Hebrews 6:1</sup> and praise for Jesus <sup>Romans 11:36</sup>.

### *Postscript (Verses 22-25)*

**22-23** The writer encouraged the readers to receive his “short” <sup>1 Peter 5:12</sup> message with an open heart and mind. Then he shared that Timothy <sup>Acts 16:1</sup> was released from a previously unknown imprisonment.

**24-25** The author concluded his book with greetings and an exclamation of Grace for “all” <sup>Colossians 4:18</sup>.

- Leviticus 16:27** The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides and flesh are to be burned up.
- Malachi 2:15** Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So ... do not break faith with the wife of your youth.
- Luke 9:23** *If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.*
- John 14:16** *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever –*
- Romans 12:1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Romans 12:13** Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- Romans 13:1a** Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.
- Romans 15:33** The God of peace be with you all. Amen.
- Romans 16:17-18** I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. ... For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9** Do you not know the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexuals ...
- 1 Corinthians 9:13** Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar?
- 2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- Ephesians 4:14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.
- Philippians 4:11-12** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
- Philippians 4:18** I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received ... the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.
- 1 Timothy 3:2-3** Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- Hebrews 9:10** They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings – external regulations applying until the time of the new order.
- James 1:27** Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
- 1 Peter 1:22** Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.