

~Hebrews~

Lesson 39 – Remaining Steadfast in the Love of the Brethren **In Christ** (part 1)

Last week we wrapped up chapter 12 with the comparisons of the two covenants, the Old and New Covenant

- In these comparisons Paul again made his point proving the New Covenant far superior to the Old
 - In fact, as we discussed last week, we see that the Old Covenant, the Law, the priesthood, and even the physical temple was removed and changed by the bringing in of the New Covenant
- Now we continue into chapter 13, the final chapter of Hebrews.
 - Many commentators think that chapter 13 is an add-on to the book and doubt that the original author even wrote it because of what seems like a drastic change in the authors discussion.
 - But I strongly disagree.
 - The points that Paul is making in chapter 13 refer back to things he said in chapter 12
 - After Paul makes his comparisons between the two covenants, he continues in verse 25 with an exhortation to not fall back under the obsolete Law and reject Jesus.
 - He tells them to rather receive Jesus and the New Covenant and have grace, for it is by this grace that we can then serve God acceptably, Heb 12:28.
 - This is the mindset we must have as we enter into chapter 13; to serve God acceptably.
 - This is a continuation of his exhortation that started in 12:25.
 - These are the things we need to be doing in this life to honor, respect and serve God acceptably since we have received Jesus and have grace, v.28
 - Chapter 13 shows us how to serve God acceptably by grace and with reverence and respect.
 - The overlaying topic behind chapter 13 is a love of the brethren, a love of fellow Christians
- This chapter is one final discussion to bring the letter to a close, so I want to go thru a quick outline of the chapter before we begin studying verse by verse.
 - In verses 1 through 19 Paul exhorts the Hebrews with 10 imperatives commands
 - Of which, these 10 commands are a result of 5 choices to choose Jesus

5 Choices to Choose Jesus

- 1) *Do not decline receiving Jesus*, 12:25
- 2) *Let us have grace*, 12:28
- 3) *Serve God acceptably*, 12:28
- 4) *Let us go forth to Him outside the camp*, 13:13
- 5) *Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God*, 13:15

- Notice Paul is not commanding or forcing people to choose Jesus.
 - This is always a free will choice of the heart
 - Paul is admonishing them to separate from Judaism and choose the New Covenant
- This entire letter, Paul has been exhorting, admonishing, instructing, and training the Hebrew Christians to make the choice for Jesus
 - And now at the end of the letter Paul gives them these final words of exhortation
 - Notice these are all from the basis of loving the brethren

10 Commands of Love as a result of Choosing Jesus

<p>1) <i>Continue in brotherly love</i>, v.1 2) <i>Do not forget or neglect to entertain strangers</i>, v.2 3) <i>Remember the prisoners</i>, v.3 4) <i>Remember the elders who rule over you</i>, v.7 5) <i>Mimic the faith of the elders</i>, v.7</p>	<p>6) <i>Do not be carried about by various and strange doctrines</i>, v.9 7) <i>Do not forget to do good and share</i>, v.16 8) <i>Obey the elders who rule over you</i>, v.17 9) <i>Be submissive to the elders</i>, v.17 10) <i>Pray for us</i>, v.18</p>
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- There are three sections to chapter 13. Today we will focus on the first section, verses 1-6
 - Let's start by reading these 6 verses, but I want to begin with verse 28 of chapter 12 so we can read into 13 and get the context, Hebrews 12:28-13:6

Hebrews 12:28-13:6

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, **by which we may serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

(Therefore, since we have received God's kingdom and His Son and have grace, and by which grace we are able to acceptably serve God...)

^{13:1} Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also. ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

- I want you to notice that this chapter is very specific toward the oneness of the body of believers
 - Paul is speaking to Christians about how to conduct their lives with other believers

Hebrews 13:1 †Let brotherly love continue.

† *Let brotherly love continue...*

- Imperative command to remain steadfast in the love of the brethren, philadelphia, φιλαδέλφια
 - Combination of dear, loving friend- philos, φίλος, and brethren- adelphos, ἀδελφός,
- This is strictly a love of Christian brethren, this isn't speaking of the world
 - There is a special bond among the body of believers, 1 Pet 1:22, 3:8
- In fact, this entire chapter has only to do with Christian fellowship
 - The idea of brotherly love is implemented throughout the rest of the chapter

Brotherly Love and Christian Fellowship In Christ is the entire focus of chapter 13

<p>a) Entertaining strangers, these are traveling believers, v.2 b) The prisoners who are in chains for Jesus, v.3 (part of the body of Christ) c) Marriage, v.4- conduct of Christian marriage</p>	<p>d) Those who rule over you, v.7, 17, shepherds of the flock, pastors, teachers, etc... e) Pray for us, v.18, spiritual leaders f) Ends with Jesus, the "Shepherd of the sheep" g) He calls the Hebrew Christians brethren, adelphos, ἀδελφός, v.22</p>
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- This word philadelphia, φιλαδέλφια, is used 7 times in the New Testament and not at all in the LXX
 - This is a special word for the "body of Christ"
 - It is used 3 times by Paul, Rom 12:10; 1 Thess 4:9; Heb 13:1

- And used 4 times by Peter, 1 Pet 1:22, 3:8; 2 Pet 1:7 (twice in this verse)
 - We also see a very close resemblance to this word in Revelation concerning the city of Philadelphia, Φιλαδέλφεια, (the city of brotherly love)
 - It is my conjecture that Peter wrote his first epistle probably around 62AD after reading Paul’s letter to the Hebrews.
 - It is very possible that after Paul wrote Hebrews, Timothy, Peter, and Sylvanus traveled to Rome to visit Paul in prison and this is where Peter wrote his first epistle.

Listen to what Peter says and how closely it resembles what Paul is saying in Hebrews 13:1:

1 Peter 1:22- *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto a sincere love of the brethren*, philadelphia, φιλαδέλφια, *love one another fervently with a pure heart*,

1 Peter 3:8- *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers*, philadelphos, φιλάδελφος...

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to †entertain strangers, for by so doing †some have unwittingly entertained angels.

† *entertain strangers...*

- Imperative command to not forget to show hospitality and loving kindness to strangers, philoxenia, φιλοξενία
 - Combination of, loving friend- philos, φίλος, and hospitable to strangers- xenos, ξενος,
 - xenos, ξενος, also has the sense of “lodging”
 - Therefore, philoxenia, φιλοξενία isn’t accepting merely strangers but **fellow brethren in Christ**
 - Paul is telling them to show accommodations for traveling Christians that need lodging, especially those on the gospel mission, by welcoming them into their home
 - Romans 12:13- *sharing in the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality*, philoxenia, φιλοξενία
 - 1 Pet 4:9- *be hospitable*, philoxenos, φιλόξενος, *to one another without grumbling*
 - 2 John 10- *if anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house*

† *...some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

- The most special reference to this is Gen 18:1-3 when Abraham entertained two angels and the Lord Himself
 - The idea of entertaining angels is to encourage us to show hospitality and brotherly love to the brethren. Jesus tells us, “*if you have done it to the least of these my brethren you have done it to Me*”, Matt 25:40

Hebrews 13:3 †Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated— †since you yourselves are in the body also.

† *Remember the prisoners...*

- Imperative command to remember, call to mind, be mindful of those who are in chains for Christ
 - For them to show compassion on those in chains meant they must identify themselves as Christians with them
 - Hebrews 10:32–34-³² *But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of*

your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

- Paul reminds them in chapter 10 and now urges and commands them in chapter 13 to show themselves as Christians and if need be, suffer the persecution with the brethren.

† *...since you yourselves are in the body also...*

- 1 Corinthians 12:25–27⁻²⁵ *that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.* ²⁶ *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.* ²⁷ *Now you are the **body of Christ**, and members individually.*

Hebrews 13:4 †Marriage is honorable among all, and †the bed undefiled; †but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

† *Marriage is honorable...*

- Marriage is honorable because God Himself placed special honor on it
 - It was God who brought Adam and Eve together

† *...the bed undefiled...*

- Literally the bed of conception
 - The marriage bed is clean because God ordained it as holy, 1 Cor 7:1-8
- However, I don't believe this is the main point Paul is trying to make
 - In the statement, "Marriage is honorable", "is" is not in the original Greek and honorable is an adjective, so it should be translated as, "*Honorable marriage in all*"
 - There are no imperative commands in this verse, but we can apply it contextually to love.
 - We must treat and keep the marriage with our spouse honorable and undefiled by staying faithful to them
 - Some people translate this as a license to say "*anything goes*" in the marriage bed.
 - I would disagree with that-
 - Just as in everything, we must possess our own vessel in sanctification and honor and abstain from sexual immorality, even in the marriage bed, 1 Thess 4:3–8
 - We must treat our spouse with respect and not bring the filth of the world into the marriage bed.

† *...but fornicators and adulterers God will judge...*

- Fornicators is pornos, πόρνος, a sexually immoral person
 - This is the same word used in Heb 12:16 concerning Esau and his sexual immorality and ungodliness
 - Paul is exhorting his brethren to remain holy in marriage and act in love toward our spouses.
 - That is the physical and temporal implication
- There is also a spiritual application that probably is more to the point than anything else
 - Paul tells us in Ephesians that marriage is a type of our oneness with Jesus
 - Ephesians 5:31–32⁻³¹ "*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*" ³² *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*
 - God is serious about His people staying faithful to Him
 - We see examples in Scripture when the children of Israel rejected God and worshipped other gods, it was described as playing the harlot with other gods, Ex 34:15-16; Jer 3:6; Hos 4:12
 - Implying Israel was an adulterer and sexual immoral
 - This is also implied in Revelation with the sexual immorality, porneia, πορνεία, of Jezebel, Rev 2:20-21

- This idea of the Hebrew Christians rejecting Jesus and going back to Judaism is a type of playing the harlot and being an adulterer to God
 - I believe that is why Paul says, “*but fornicators and adulterers God will judge*”
 - James tells us that anyone who is a lover, philos, φίλος, of the world is an enemy of God, James 4:4
 - And even more, he is an adulterer, one who has played the harlot with the world and has not been faithful to God, James 4:4
 - This ties in with the topic of covetousness in the next two verses because if you are a lover of money and love the system of this world, you are an adulterer in the sense that you have not been faithful to Him
 - And thus, an enemy of God, James 4:2-4

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be †without covetousness; †be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “†I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

† ...*without covetousness...*

- Without the love of silver, aphilarguros, ἀφιλάργυρος,
 - A compound of philos, φίλος, as we saw with loving our brethren and loving strangers
 - This is the compound of love and silver- as Paul has done this entire letter, he is making a contrast.
 - a-phil-arguros, ἀφιλάργυρος- philos, φίλος, and silver- arguros, αργυρος,
 - We are to be lovers of God and people, not lovers of money, Matt 22:37-40, 1 Jn 2:7
 - Paul tells us, the love of money, philarguria, φιλαργυρία, is the root of all evil, 1 Tim 6:10
 - We must trust God and be faithful to Him- to trust in money instead of God is playing the harlot with money and being unfaithful
 - We must be like Moses, Hebrews 11:25–26-²⁵ *choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,* ²⁶ *esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*
 - Judaism had turned from God, they were playing the harlot with the world
 - The Jews denied Jesus and wanted to kill Him because they were jealous that they would lose their position and wealth, John 11:48; 1 Pet 1:18
 - Paul is exhorting the Hebrew Christians not to play the harlot with Judaism and turn away from Jesus, but rather *look to the reward*

† ...*be content with such things...*

- Be content to what you currently possess and have with you, namely the gift of grace and eternal salvation in Christ
 - This word has the sense to avail, to be of service, to be enough, to satisfy
 - To be so satisfied in Jesus as our ultimate treasure that everything else pales in comparison
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9 uses the same word as content but translates it “sufficient”- “*My grace is sufficient for you, ...*” *Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* (The power of Christ in His grace has come to avail me)

† ...*“I will never leave you nor forsake you”...*

- I love reading this in the Greek because you can see how emphatic this statement is
 - In English we only see two “no’s”, **never** and **nor**
 - But in the Greek there are actually five “no’s”

- Οὐ μὴ σε ἀνῶ, οὐδ’ οὐ μὴ σε ἐγκαταλίπω.
 - I will not never abandon you, nor I will not never forsake you
- God is the sure foundation, 1 Pet 2:6, this world and its system is like building on sand- not stable, Matt 7:24-27
 - 1 Tim 6:17- don't trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God
- Loving money is trusting money more than you trust God
- Money, riches, a prosperous life might look good on the outside, but those who love money as their god and reject the True God, will be judged as an adulterer and condemned to eternal hell
 - I want to read you Ps 73

Psalm 73

¹ Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart.

² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. ³ For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. ⁵ They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. ⁶ Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. ⁷ Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. ⁸ They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. ⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them. ¹¹ And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" ¹² Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.

¹³ Surely, I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. ¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. ¹⁶ When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—

¹⁷ Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. ¹⁹ Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. ²⁰ As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

²¹ Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. ²² I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. ²³ Nevertheless **I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.** ²⁴ **You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.**

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but You? And **there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.** ²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷ For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for **harlotry.** ²⁸ But it is good for me to draw near to God; **I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,** That I may declare all Your works.

- When we know and trust God will never leave, then we can boldly say...verse 6

Hebrews 13:6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my †helper; I will not fear. †What can man do to me?"

† ...helper...

- Verse 6 is quoted from Psalm 118:6 in the Septuagint
 - To come to aid after a cry for help, Heb 2:18; Mk 9:24
 - This ties back to being content and satisfied in Him because He has filled us up and made us sufficient in all that we need, Heb 13:5; 2 Cor 12:9

† ... *What can man do to me?*

- Absolutely nothing!!!
 - *I will not never abandon you, nor I will not never forsake you*
- When you are so satisfied in Jesus, nothing can separate you from His love,

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

³⁷ Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God has chosen us and has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We must choose Him, receive Jesus, pursue Him,
love the brethren and forsake the world.

Next week we will study the next section in chapter 13, verses 7 thru 17.

Hebrews 13:1–6

¹ Let **brotherly love** continue.

² Do not forget to **entertain strangers**, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.

³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

⁴ Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

⁵ Let *your* conduct *be* **without covetousness**; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

⁶ So we may boldly say: “*The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*”

Hebrews 13:1–6

¹ Ἡ **φιλαδελφία** μενέτω. **love of the brethren**

² τῆς **φιλοξενίας** μὴ ἐπιλανθάνεσθε. διὰ ταύτης γὰρ ἔλαθόν τινες ξενίσαντες ἀγγέλους.
love of strangers

³ μιμνήσκεσθε τῶν δεσμίων, ὡς συνδεδεμένοι τῶν κακουχουμένων, ὡς καὶ αὐτοὶ ὄντες ἐν σώματι.

⁴ τίμιος ὁ γάμος ἐν πᾶσι, καὶ ἡ κοίτη ἀμίαντος. πόρνους δὲ καὶ μοιχοὺς κρινεῖ ὁ Θεός.

not-lover of silver/money

⁵ **ἀφιλάργυρος** ὁ τρόπος, ἀρκούμενοι τοῖς παροῦσιν. αὐτὸς γὰρ εἶρηκεν, Οὐ μὴ σε ἀνῶ, οὐδ’ οὐ μὴ σε ἐγκαταλίπω.

⁶ ὥστε θαρροῦντας ἡμᾶς λέγειν, Κύριος ἐμοὶ βοηθός, καὶ οὐ φοβηθήσομαι τί ποιήσει μοι ἄνθρωπος.