

Hebrews 13:1-25

Session	Chapter	Topic
1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Introduction to Hebrews
2	Hebrews 1:5 – 2:4	Jesus is Greater than the Angels
3	Hebrews 2:5 – 3:6	Jesus' Sonship is Greater than Moses' Servanthood
4	Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13	Jesus' Rest is Better than Joshua's Rest
5	Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10	Jesus, Our Great Appointed High Priest
6	Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20	Exhortation to Persevere in Light of God's Promise
7	Hebrews 7:1-28	Jesus, High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek
8	Hebrews 8:1-13	Jesus, High Priest of the New Covenant
9	Hebrews 9:1-28	Jesus' Sacrifice is Greater
10	Hebrews 10:1-39	Persevere On In Light of Jesus' Perfect Sacrifice
11	Hebrews 11:1-40	The Faith of the Ancients in Action
12	Hebrews 12:1-29	Running the Race with Perseverance
13	Hebrews 13:1-25	Concluding Words

We have come to the end of Hebrews. The author has spoken at great length about the sonship and priesthood of Jesus. He shows that Jesus is greater than all of the elements that we have in the Old Testament. The reason why he did that is to exhort his readers to endure suffering and persevere on in their faith in Christ, and not be tempted to go back to their Jewish ways. The reality has come in Christ, why go back to the shadows?

Now, at the conclusion of his "word of exhortation" (Heb 13:22), he gives them some final instructions on how to "worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" (Heb 12:28-29). These final instructions cover a broad range of Christian responsibilities. These instructions can be divided into two main sections: "vv1-6 provide general exhortatory material which would have been familiar throughout Christian congregations. Vv7-9 concern the community's relationships with leaders, guarding against heresy, suffering for Christ, true Christian sacrifices, and prayer for the author." (O'Brien, pg 503)

Launch

- 1) How can we worship God acceptably with reverence and awe? What kind of picture of life comes to your mind when we talk about worshipping God with reverence and awe?

Concluding Instructions

Read Hebrews 13:1-25

- 2) List out all the commands given from v1-6, together with the reason for the commands where it is given.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Command</u>	<u>Reason Given</u>

3) Which of these commands do you struggle to obey? Why is that?

a. Of the reasons given in the list of commands, which one is most helpful to you?

4) What does the author call his readers to do with their leaders from verses 8-10?

a. Based on verses 8-10, what is the role of a Christian leader in the church?

b. How is verse 8 often misused and what should be the right way based on the context here?

5) What do you think the author means by verse 13?

a. What are we looking for? (v14) Who are we similar to? (cf. Heb 11:10)

6) What “sacrifice” are we called to bring in verse 15-16? How does that look like in your life?

7) Why should we have confidence and submit to our leaders? (v17)

- a. What happens when the work of the leaders becomes burdensome? (v17b)
-
- 8) What does the author pray for in his benediction to his readers? (v20-21)
-
- 9) How do the commands in this passage about our leaders differ from the world's general attitude to leaders?
 - a. What can we do to cultivate these attitudes/commands listed in this passage to our leaders?

Conclusion

Towards the end of Hebrews, the author calls his readers to worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. He continues to explain how that looks like in the life of a Christian. He tells his readers to continue their love for one another, including those who are in prison. Honouring marriages and living a life of contentment were also emphasized.

After this, he spends far amount of time asking his readers to remember, have confidence and submit to the authority of their leaders. The role of a Christian leader is to speak the word of God to us (v7), and given what the author has touched in this book about the importance of the word of God – it is not surprising. God has spoken to his people in many different ways in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament, he has spoken to us by his Son (Heb 1:1-2). The only way that we can “read” and find out about this Jesus now, is through the Scriptures.

That is why the author keeps insisting to his readers to listen/remember their leaders. He asks them to have confidence in them and submit to their authority. If they do not, they will be a burden to these leaders, and having overburdened leaders are “of no benefit to” (v17) them. This is because the leaders are supposed to speak the word of God to everyone. By burdening them, they will have less time/opportunity to do so, and that means that the leaders are not serving everyone with a joyful heart. When that happens, no one benefits and everyone is affected.