

I. Lesson: Keeping the Better in Christ (Hebrews 13)

A. Keeping a Better Community (13:1-7)

1. The writer charges the congregation to take care of each other through love. He reminds them to make sure to take care of strangers, people of good will who are coming to visit, in so doing one might have cared for an angel (see Gen 18). The congregation should have compassion on the imprisoned as well.
2. Marriage is honorable and the bed is pure. But all other forms of sexual interaction will result in God's judgment.
3. The congregation and we should remember that our manner of living must be rooted in the Lord. We should be content with the Lord's provisions recognizing we always have God's presence. The congregation should use those who have preached to them as examples to encourage them in times of lack.

B. Keeping Better Worship (13:8-17)

1. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Thus, the congregation and the church should not be tossed about with all sorts of different beliefs. What the Lord has provided has given access to a better altar. We have access through him to what is to come.
2. Since the church expects much greater things to come, praise is the proper response. But not just with the fruit of our lips but also with our giving.
3. Also, it is required that the congregation be subject to those whom God has called to teach and preach. They are responsible for giving an account before the Lord for the souls of the church. If the pastor cannot do so with joy, there is a problem in the relationship.

C. Being Better in a Difficult World (13:18-25)

1. The writer requests prayers as this are a necessary response for those in leadership of the church and from the church they serve. But the prayer should be for the freedom of the writer who may be imprisoned the moment of writing.
2. The writer gives other closing remarks important for our observation. He offers them a word of benediction (v. 20), he pleads with the congregation to accept the word of "exhortation" in a "few words" (v. 21), he informs them that Timothy had been freed and he hopes to come with him soon (v. 22), and he tells them to salute those who have authority in the church (v. 24) as those in Italy salute them. He sends grace to them (v. 25).