

Gospel Living

Hebrews 13:1-6

Intro: A universal truth to the human experience is that ALL people, regardless of ethnicity, socio economic status, political persuasion, or creed, live their lives out of what they believe. Everyone. Our living is an overflow of what we believe.

If we believe wealth will provide peace & rest, we will do whatever it takes to attain it. Work more hours, take on extra jobs, often neglecting time with family.

If we believe the classic Tennessee Volunteer fan motto, “This is our year”, then we will spend hundreds of dollars on new nike sideline gear and attending games. This is me.

Context: Last week Pastor Scott taught about the unshakable Kingdom of Christ.

Chapter 12 closed by saying, *“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”*

Heb. 12:28-29

The writer gives an imperative, a command, a task — *Acceptable worship with reverence and awe*

Chapter 13 explains to us how we are to do it

Stand & Read Hebrews 13:1-6

I. Practice Hospitality (v. 1-3)

- Brotherly love
- Hospitality to strangers (Overflow of brotherly love)
 - Loyal, encouraging, burden bearing, life long commitment to one another

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

- Brotherly love is a fruit of Gospel Belief
- Let this continue! See to it that this endures in your life, home, and church.
 - Why does the writer command this if it is a fruit of gospel belief?

You can't command love! You can't force a dead tree to bear apples by command it to.

He says this because while brotherly love is a fruit of gospel belief, it is not produced on its own.

 - Agriculture. Plant, water, prune, over time we yield a crop.
 - It takes time & work! The bible calls this sanctification!
- Obstacles to this (Weeds)

- Time
- Finances
- Our Past
- Our Southern Fried Lone Ranger False Christianity
- Some have entertained angels
 - Genesis 18 - Abraham is visited by 3 men. 2 turn out to be angels and 1 is Jesus. This is one of several *Christophanies* in the Old Testament.
 - Luke 28 - Road to Emmaus

Emperor Julian — —> “Nothing has contributed to the progress of the superstition of the Christians as their charity to strangers...these godless Galileans provide for not only their own poor but ours as well.”

- Remember those in prison

- They had already been doing this if you remember

“For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.”

Hebrews 10:24

- According to the World Evangelical Alliance, 200 million Christians are being persecuted in the 131 of the world's 193 countries.

- This should burden us

- This should lead us to remember them in prayer

II. Avoid Immorality

- Honor marriage

- Hold it up in high regard, consider it a noble gift

- How do you talk about it? Do the words you speak about marriage portray the image that the Bible says it is?

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

Eph. 5:32-23

- Sexually Immoral (unmarried, having sex)

- Adulterous (Married, having sex outside of it)

- The scripture says that God will judge those who live their lives this way

- Few things destroy like sexual sin

- Just as Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife as she sought to seduce him, so we are to run from every ounce of sexual temptation that finds its way to us

III. Flee Materialism

- Keep your life FREE from the love of money

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”* Matt. 6:19-21

*“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You can not serve God and money.**”* Matt. 6:24

- What a task for the comfortable 21st century American

Augustine — —> People in our world are stingy with their money but promiscuous with their bed. Christians are to be promiscuous with our money but stingy with our bed

- How on earth are we to defeat the temptation to keep others out of our home, appease our flesh through sexual sin, or maybe most difficult of all: to be content with what we have?
- The 2nd part of verse 5 & verse 6 gives us the answer
 - God is with us!
 - This is a sharpened axe to slice the roots of self-centered living

Gospel belief precedes Gospel living

What does your life say? Do you believe?

“Some Christians love the poor but don’t seem to care about holiness; some love family values but don’t seem to care about the poor. True followers of Jesus always care about both.” J.D. Greear

Ultimately, it all comes down to this, is God enough for you?