

Hebrews 13.7-25 “An Unchanging Christ for an Ever-Changing World”

Today CLOSE our Study of ANCIENT New Testament Letter of HEBREWS
 Not ANSWERED Questions Church has Asked 2000 yr, Who Wrote? Received?
 As Listened to Good Sermons preached by Okeke, Alkesh, Josh Several Weeks
 My Heart Answered “Hebrews > Words of HOLY SPIRIT directed to ME!”
 Pray He used “for Teaching, Reproof, Correction, Training in Righteousness”

v. 22 I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

Author Describes Letter as BRIEF EXORTATION > Hope & Encouragement
 1st C Xtians – Converts from JUDAISM – Tempted to RELAPSE to Old Ways

Wants to INSTRUCT them and EMBRACE them in Christ

LETTER Not DRIVE BY SHOOTING – STRONG Truth because Loves Them
 NOT ALOOF Theologian in Tall IVORY TOWER – Warm, Hearted PASTOR
 BRIEF – Take about HOUR to Read! Short Sermon was HOUR in Early Church

v. 23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon...

Slice of Life from On-Going work of Gospel – Paul probably with the Lord
 Timothy Paul’s SON – Follows Father Travels from PRISON to PREACHING

v. 24 Those who come from Italy send you greetings.

Readers Either in ITALY – ROME?– Or in Major City with Italian Community
 PRIMARY Author God the Holy Spirit > Message: Global Church for All Time

Finished Work of Christ // Unfinished Work of the Church

1. Finished Work of Christ

a. Complete

Hebrews EXALTS Jesus > God's Son sent from HEAVEN to SAVE

Came to FINISH Task given before Creation > Redeem a People for His Name

Letter describes Him as their PROPHET, PRIEST, KING > OBEDIENT Son

Background of Letter: Jewish Rituals given 1500 years Earlier thru MOSES >

PURPOSE of RITUALS was to Strengthen Relationship with GOD

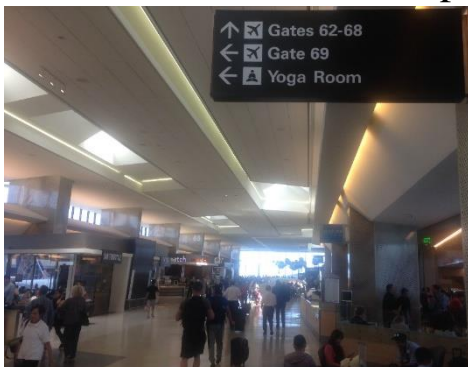
NOW Rituals – DISTORTED > REPLACE their RELATIONSHIP with GOD

MODERN Example in West is YOGA

Many in West – incl. Churches / Xtians – HARMLESS Exercise & Stretching

IGNORNE Facts – YOGA comes from WORSHIP of FALSE GODS

San Francisco Int'l Airport – City of Birth - Few days ago – Surprised to See...



Huh? YOGA ROOM – New Room?

REBRANDED! Former PRAYER CHAPEL

Cannot have PLACE to Call on Jesus or Al'lah

But Door Wide Open for Dark Spirits YOGA gods

vs. 10,11 We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.

USES an Illustration from MOSAIC Law to make IMPORTANT POINT

PICTURE of Day of Atonement > Animal Sacrificed for Sins of Nation

FULLY CONSUMED by FIRE on ALTAR of GOD in TABERNACLE

We understand Jewish Rituals better than Jews > We know Jesus who Fulfills All

gifts and sacrifices...cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper...But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come...he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. Hebrews 9.9-12

LAMB of GOD Completed His Eternal Mission > Fully Extinguished WRATH
 Jesus REDEEMING Death has RESTORED our RELATIONSHIP with GOD

b. Changeless

These Xtians SEEING their WORLD Change Right Around Them > Us TOO!
 Forces of UNBELIEF working Tirelessly to EXTINGUISH Light of GOSPEL

There has scarcely been any other time when so many cults have been present and active. New ones seem to proliferate every year... Some are particularly successful in reaching students and other young people away from home. We need to take seriously the teaching of this letter about the primacy of God's Word and the supremacy of God's Son so that we are not led away by "diverse and strange teachings" of any group not firmly based on teachings of Scripture.

Raymond Brown

v. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

This Verse LODGED between COMMENDATION of GOOD Leaders

And CONDEMNATION of BAD Leaders

Jesus Christ never NEEDS to be REPLACED

"you are the same, and your years will have no end" Hebrews 1.12

LEADERS will COME & GO – Some will FAIL and FRUSTRATE
 ONE who Never DIES and will NEVER DISAPPOINT – Lord Jesus Christ
 PAST Sacrifice / PRESENT Intercession / FUTURE bring Consummation
 Greater is He that is IN US – than he that is IN the WORLD

All our Circumstances Constantly CHANGE – Jesus Christ Never Will

Sovereign	Jesus	Savior
"his Son...through whom he created the world" (1.2)	Yesterday	"offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins" (10.12)
"he upholds the universe by the word of his power" (1.3)	Today	"he always lives to make intercession for them" (7.25)
"you are the same, and your years will have no end" (1.12)	Forever	"will appear a second to save those eagerly waiting for him" (9.28)

The Father communicates all his love to us through Christ and we pour out our love to the Father only through Christ...Christ is the priest into whose hand we put all the offerings that we wish to give to the Father. John Owen

He's WAY – TRUTH - LIFE > No One Comes to Father Apart from HIM
Notice METHOD of Pastor WRITING Message to struggling Hebrew Christians

13 Chapters – Doctrine & Application – ALL About JESUS

Modern Sermons – 10 pts How to Better Parents, Overcome Anger, Get Success
Hebrews: Parents, Losers, Angry People, Xtian & Not-Yet > Need More JESUS!

c. Come by Faith Alone

CONTRAST Changeless Stability of Jesus > Changing, Unstable False Teaching

v. 9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

STRANGE DIETARY RULES – Like Ice Cream NOT Essential Food Group?

FOOD and GRACE are Means of STRENGTHENING and GROWING

Point: We DEPEND on God's GRACE Not FOODS for Ultimate Strength

Problem > Confusing the FORM and FUNCTION

FOOD & Fellowship – Significant Times of Spiritual GROWTH

Soon FOCUS is on GIFTS and NOT the GIVER > Empty RITUAL Launched!

Contradicts idea that we GAIN Christ by EATING FOOD

Including IMPOSSIBLE Idea Communion Wafer > Changed Real Body of X?

X Not in Wafers, Altars, Screens, PPTS, Pulpits, or Worship Songs

Christ is PRESENT by His SPIRIT thru His WORD

Another Way of Saying > Hebrew Xtians must LEAVE Old Ritual of JUDAISM

vs. 12-14 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the

reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Spiritual Growth Not PLACE to Go, FOOD to Eat, ROUTINE to Perform

Want to FIND DELIGHT need to FOLLOW Jesus & DIE

Want to experience FULLNESS of Christ – Need to EMBRACE Him ALONE

Message of Hebrews > Jesus is BETTER and Jesus is ENOUGH!

Jewish Sacrifice BURNED OUTSIDE the Camp // Jesus suffered Outside CITY

Listeners need to FOLLOW – Leave SAFETY of Roman Tolerated JUDAISM

We FOLLOW the Footsteps of MOSES...

He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt,
for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11.26

We are Called to BEAR REPROACH FOR and WITH our Great Shepherd

EMBRACE the RISK of Rejection > World Not Friendly Place to Faithful Xtian

If U.R. HESITANT Xtian, Call to Step Up join HEROIC Christians Old & New

In leaving the synagogue they have not turned their backs on the choice leaders and personalities of the old dispensations; the patriarchs and their successors are now part of the church triumphant, 'made perfect' by the work of Christ.

Raymond Brown

Must LEAVE World if want to FIND YOURSELF in CITY which is to COME
CITY Abraham SOUGHT – ZION where MYRAID of Festal Angels REJOICE

When we LEAVE Way of WORLD – “strive to enter that rest...” Hebrews 4.11

This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”
Jeremiah 6.16

2. Unfinished Work of the Church

a. Liberated to Praise – Sacrifice of Christ FINISHED

Sacrifices of Christians should NEVER END

vs. 15,16 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Description of DUTY echoes Command of Jesus > Love God & Neighbor

“praise God” & “do good and share”

The subject of Hebrews is not our justification, not our being delivered from condemnation: but our being brought into the glad company who are worshipping and praising God, Christ leading the worship William Newell

Christ's Sacrifice	Christian's Sacrifice
Salvation	Celebration
Propitiation	Praise
Complete	Continual
Unrepeatable	Unending
Saves	Sanctifies
Redeems	Rejuvenates

Do we offer God our SACRIFICE of THANKFUL PRAISE?

Just reviewing Teaching of THIS Chapter...

Are we THANKFUL for Brotherly Love, Hospitality, Needs Met, Life Partner, God's Protection and Provision, Leaders who Taught us the Word of God...

MOST of ALL – Great GIFT of God's SON – PROPHET, PRIEST, KING...

DO we DO GOOD & SHARE? Enjoy KOINONIA / Deep Fellowship of Church show hospitality to strangers...Remember those who are in prison...

Honor marriage – your own and all others...

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have

Do you DO GREATEST GOOD FOR OTHERS? Tell them about JESUS?

REASON we are ALIVE is to MEET JESUS and spend FOREVER with GOD

Only HE is SAME Sacrifice Yesterday, Intercessor Today, Rescue Forever

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Romans 10.14-17

Last couple weeks read Arnold Dallimore's bio of Charles Spurgeon
Before Modern Media - Preached to 20 million London, U.K., Europe
Sermon about 20 yrs before he died...

"In a little while there will be a concourse of persons in the streets...'What are these people waiting for?...'It is Spurgeon...he is to be buried today'...'that man who preached at the Tabernacle?'...That will be very soon; and when you see my coffin carried to the silent grave. I should like every one of you, whether converted or not, to be constrained to say, 'He did earnestly urge us, in plain and simple language, not to put off the consideration of eternal things. He did entreat us to look to Christ'"
Charles Spurgeon, 27 December 1874

What will those you LEAVE BEHIND say about Your Words, Choices, Witness?
Not JUST Pastors and Preachers – All who Walk with Jesus are His Witnesses
All of us are Called to give SACRIFICE of PRAISE

b. Leaders who Preach

Focus EXAMPLE & INSTRUCTION OF LEADERS – Then and Now

v. 6 "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

v. 7 SEE this COURAGE IN your LEADERS

v. 7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

1st word Letter Local Church any PARTICULAR ORDER & STRUCTURE

Not concerned about FORM of Gov't but ATTITUDES and UNITY

Confidence NOT in MEN of God but in the GOD OF MEN

"keep on remembering" > Zipper Open?? Spit Someone in 1st Row??

Not told to Remember PERSONALITIES or Ministry TECHNIQUES

“SCAN CLOSELY” – their OUTCOME, Not Bad Sermons or Wrinkled Suits
 “spoke the word of God” / “their way of life” > did Practice what they Preached?
 See WHOLE IMPACT of Life Lived well in Kingdom Service by GRACE God

Writer has URGED them to be MATURE in Christ, now ADDS...

v. 9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings

DIVERSE = Clothing woven with MANY COLORS

Like JOSEPH’S COAT > DAZZLING but its DEADLY

Need PURE, UNADULTERATED Milk & Meat of WORD

Sign Spiritual Maturity be FIRM against False Teaching

NOT like CHILDREN Blown About by Winds of Doctrine

How do we judge doctrine? By the sincerity of the teacher?...personality?

Because it is popular?...the Bible is our only sure guide. Does it agree with the clear teaching of Scripture?
 Richard Phillips

v. 17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

v. 7 REMEMBER Leaders who’ve ENDED WELL & GONE HOME to Heaven

v. 17 OBEY Leaders who Faithfully tell you HOW to GET to Heaven

Leaders from Past v. 7	Leaders of Present v. 17
Remember Them	Obey and Submit to Them
“spoke to you the word of God”	“keeping watch over your souls”
“consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith”	“will have to give an account”

Leaders / PLURAL – No church NT led by just ONE MAN > ELDER TEAMS

ELDERS who are FAITHFUL, ACCOUNTABLE, and RELIABLE

v. 17 “keeping watch over your souls” = SENTRY on WATCH, Military Service
 ON GUARD Against ERROR, ENEMIES, and HERESIES
 OBEY – Western Christians this is a STRONG WORD

Modern Church taken word OBEY Out MARRIAGE Vows! No One SUBMITS!
 Think about It – If Preacher really is Giving Word of God > BETTER OBEY!

2000 yrs Church History – PASTORAL ABUSE is what makes HEADLINES

Reformation Distinction btwn MAGISTERIAL & MINISTERIAL Authority

MAJESTY – Word for KING – Total Authority over ALL of LIFE

ONLY GOD – Not Church, State, Family – have Magisterial Authority over Us

MINISTER = SERVANT of WORD, LORD, PEOPLE > Serves Word to People
 Rightly Exercise Ministerial Authority – Say What Bible Says – No More / Less

Ministerial Authority says Marriage – One Man, One Woman, for Life

Magisterial Authority says Who Exactly Marries Who, Where, Why, How

Ministerial Authority – Man should LEAD his Family

Magisterial Authority – By THIS Job, this Place, for this Pay

Preacher who dares Exercise Magisterial Authority Steals Job of Holy Spirit

“the Pastor said so” is NOT BIBLICAL REASON to OBEY

Mature Believer TRUSTED by God, Work Out their Salvation & Service 4 Him

NT Not teach UNDISCERNING Obedience or UNINTELLIGENT Submission

Minister must Faithfully Preach & Teach Word > Listener: Discern, Apply, Obey
 But PREACHERS & PEOPLE will be JUDGED by Christ Alone on Final Day

There'll be JOY in Church – No Question Jesus ALONE is HEAD of His Church
 All use our GIFTS and GRACES to serve Him and give Him ALL THE GLORY

c. Life of Prayer

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Hebrews 5.7

Now called to FOLLOW Jesus – Man of Prayer --- People who Pray TO HIM...
 v. 18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

When REALIZES how GREAT Challenges of Ministry, He BEGS for PRAYER
 SO DO I! – Like Paul says to Corinthians “who is sufficient for these things?”!

I hope you FAITHFULLY PRAY for the LEADERS of this CHURCH
 Pray we ALL Serve with CLEAR CONSCIENCE and ACT HONORABLY
 RIGHT with GOD & MAN – HEART and HABITS in HARMONY with GOD

Closing PRAYER is also Author's Benediction

Author ENDS INSPIRING LETTER with MAJESTIC CONCLUSION vs. 20,21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1st Direct REFERENCE to RESURRECTION in this LETTER

REPEATS Great Themes – COVENANT, SACRIFICE, SALVATION, JESUS
 God of PEACE has Accomplished Our Peace thru PRINCE of PEACE

God who RAISED DEAD is Able to ANSWER their PRAYERS

God is Faithful – Not just for One Era > Made ETERNAL COVENANT Forever

God is EQUIPPER & ENABLER – By GRACE His People will DO His WORK

Mighty God gives PEACE His Church, we're called Announce Peace to World

Equipped with Everything Good we can Do Good for World > Glory to God

LIKE US - Writer is DEPENDING on their PRAYERS //

DEPENDENT on POWER of GREAT SHEPHERD of SHEEP

Come to END of 13 Chapters of SCRIPTURE / 5 Months of SERMONS

Pray 3 words “Jesus is Better” forever FIXED in our HEARTS

We NEED them FIRMLY Fixed – Like 1st Readers of this LETTER...

TEMPTED to DENY Him or your TESTIMONY

TEMPTED to CHEAT in your STUDIES or Your SPOUSE

SHRINK Back to FEAR and SILENCE when Called be BOLD & Courageous

WONDER if All RELIGIONS aren't just Different VERSES of SAME SONG

Just a LITTLE BRIBE – Just Round Up NUMBERS – Just a Sexual FLING

No Where else to Go! Jesus – Prophet, Priest, King, Savior, Shepherd, Friend

IF walk Away from Him – NO Other Salvation – No Other Sacrifice for Sin

CLOSING v. 25 Grace be with all of you. / BEGINS & ENDS with GRACE

IF Truly CRY of Your Heart “Jesus is Better” – Then, Grace WILL be with You

Author has MAGNIFIED the GRACE of GOD we have in CHRIST

GRACE – God's UNDESERVED FAVOR – Love for UNWORTHY SINNERS

Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2.9

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4.16

See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God Hebrews 12.15

Even when CONFESSION is CLEAR – CONVICTIONS Uncompromising

STILL FALL SHORT of PERFECTION – Still Need DAILY GRACE

Still MUST Walk the Path of HUMILITY and REPENTANCE

This life is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished but it is going on. This is not the end but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory but all is being purified. Martin Luther

Hebrews 13.⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. ¹⁸Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. ¹⁹I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. ²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²²I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. ²⁴Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. ²⁵Grace be with all of you.