

Hebrews 13.7-16

A Sacrifice of Praise

THEME of Hebrews – Jesus is BETTER

Theme Verse? NOT TOLD > Good CHOICE > 13.15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

GOAL of Concerned Pastor wrote to 1st C Jewish background believers

THEY'D "Be part of glad company praising God in worship led by Jesus"

Exhorts PILGRIMS on Earth to FOCUS on High PRIEST in Heaven

Chapter 1.2. "in these last days he (God) has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world"

Chapter 2.9 "we see...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"

Chapter 4.7,14 "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."... Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession"

Chapter 10.19-22 "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith"

ONE of the CONCLUDING Assignment for Hebrew Believers – 13.15 "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name"

SACRIFICE! – NOT FOR Salvation – but BECAUSE OF Salvation

NOT for REDEMPTION but in RESPONSE to being REDEEMED

WRITER alluding to PEACE Offering of THANKSGIVING - Leviticus

THANK Offering – NOT for Atonement but ALLELUJAH!

"Thank you God that I am your Covenant child in right relation w/ You"

PEACE Offerings Given on SPECIAL Occasions in Life of Jewish Believer

In JESUS it is WAY OF LIFE > NOT Occasional but CONTINUAL

Christian FAITH is MORE than just GETTING SAVED

We MUST Be Saved – Justification OPENS Door > Enter RIGHT Door!

Go thru DOOR into PRESENCE of God > His Praise, Pleasure, Purpose

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.

GLORIFY God and DO GOOD to People / INSEPERABLE Commands

2 Duties that JESUS Forever JOINED > Love God, Love Neighbor

BE so HEAVENLY MINDED that you can DO some EARTHLY GOOD

WHOLE Church MUST take Whole JESUS into the Whole WORLD

“whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” Colossians 3.17

HOW bring Sacrifices of Praise to Ends of Earth until End of the Age?

1. Encouraged by Examples

POWERFUL PROMISE v. 6 So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”

ONE of SOURCES of Encouragement > Men & Women led us in FAITH

Ch 11 – HEROES of OLD Covenant > Their Examples WITNESS to US

Also Remember NEW Covenant Heroes God PUT in YOUR World

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.

We STAND on the SHOULDERS of GIANTS > 2000 yrs of Xtian History

PARENT – TEACHER in School – Sunday School Teacher – Deacon

WHAT to Remember? Not Personalities, Styles, Techniques, Bad Habits

“the outcome of their way of life” > See them to FINISH LINE

Deeply STIRRING to Hear Eulogies ‘good words’ at FUNERAL

Dayna’s sister JADIE Died > Last Summer > Home in PA

Watched On-Line Service – Neighbors, Waitresses, Church Friends, Workmates

“I HAD to come and say Something...Wonderful Person...Faith...Works”

Writers confidence NOT in Men of God but in GOD OF MEN & Women

BEST of Men are Still MEN at BEST...What God does thru their LIFE

See what God can DO thru a PERSON over a LIFETIME of FAITH

“Jesus Revolution” Chuck Smith/ My P. Chuck SoCal Charles Svendsen

Montrose Community Church > Membership about same as Kalahikiola

Youth Group 200+ including THIS lost, long-haired high-schooler

Like FATHER to Lots of Young People > Stopped Cars to Share Jesus

WHAT we are to IMITATE > Not Fancies, Foibles, but their FAITH

TIMES When they RELIED on the LORD and BOLDLY Stood for HIM

FAITH that gave them POWER and SUSTAINED them to the END

2. Doctrinally Discerning

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.

Church GOAL Maturity & Stability, Not let Coconut Wireless make Wild

“so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes” Ephesians 4.14

FALSE Teaching WILL Come > Even from CHURCH Leaders

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

‘diverse’ = word for cloth woven with many colors / LXX Gen 37.3 same wd. Joseph cloak

// METAL > word describes ALLOYS like Brass > MIXTURE

ATTRACTION of False Teaching > Clever Angle on OLD Theme

Sound IMPRESSIVE, FUELS Pride, Makes Teacher LOOK Good

Paul told Corinthians he “setting forth the truth plainly” 2 Cor 4.2

v. 9 ‘strange’ or ‘alien’ teaching > wd for FOREIGNERS, unfamiliar

HOW do we Judge Doctrine? Crowds? Finances? Sincerity? Popularity?

STANDARD is Scripture > CANON = Rule of Measurement

“Bereans...were more noble...they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so” Acts 17.11

SMILE as Imagine Young Berean Christians giving Apostle Paul Shake Down

Paul was PROUD about their CAREFUL Checking for Consistency to Christ

“even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed” Galatians 1.8

Hawaiian KNOWS how to EAT Fish without Choking on the BONES

Be SURE those TEACH You are Faithful to Scripture > Soul Depends

v. 9 “for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them” > Something EXTRA TO DO!

WARNING against RITUALS, CEREMONIES, SACRAMENTAL Meals

JEWS emphasized Eating or NOT Eating Certain FOODS

Supposed FOODS had some SPIRITUAL BENEFIT > Keeping FEASTS?

Even Apostle PETER was WORRIED about FOODS – Acts 10 –

3 X’s God LUAU w/ LauLau, Ophi, Squid, SPAM > GRIND, Brudda!

“Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do” 1 Corinthians 8.8

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” Romans 14.17

Spiritual BLESSINGS Only Received thru FAITH in LORD JESUS

Encouraged by Examples / Doctrinally Discerning...

3. Celebrate Simplicity

1st C Jews TAUNTED these Hebrews who Followed JESUS

Jews CRITICIZED “your religion does not even have an altar!”

WE have Temple, Priesthood, Rituals, Sacrifices, Traditions, Ceremonies

You’re MEETING in Homes in Secret, **No Altar**, behind Locked Doors

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.

PUT ON Old Testament THINKING CAP to Understand his POINT

Remember Jewish PRIEST would EAT some SACRIFICED Animals

Jewish PRIESTS – Still offering Animals AFTER Jesus Died for SINS

No Where NEAR God’s REAL Altar > Not LITERAL > PICTURE

Jesus > FULL/FINAL Sacrifice on ALTAR of the CROSS

Christian Faith NOT Program, Pageantry, Performance but A PERSON

MODERN Churches – We have PPT, Screens, Fancy Shows / No PPT // No H.S.!!

NO OUTWARD Activities – Altar Calls, Fasts, 24 hr Prayer, Sacraments

TODAY former Roman Catholics face this STRUGGLE

False Teaching > ROME True Church / Mass is True Sacrifice

We don’t Need MACHINERY of Religion – Simple FAITH in Jesus

“We have LIVING Christ, who Died / Rose, Live in HIM”

“Unless a system of religion relies utterly on the work of Christ in his substitutionary work of atonement, it is alien, it is foreign, to the true religion of Scripture, which is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and especially in his redeeming blood” Richard Philips

We have AN ALTAR – A Savior who Died Once for All to Save

v. 12,13 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.

Remaining CARCAS taken OUTSIDE Camp and BURNED

JESUS – like Passover Sacrifice – Suffered/Died OUTSIDE City Gates

JESUS – Once for All – Full and Final Sacrifice for Sins for All Time

NO Going Back to Rituals, Ceremonies, Shadows, Anticipation

FULFILLMENT > Reality – King has COME – Lamb of God for World

America Today – Cannot say anything Might be Interp as Negative

Against ANYONE or ANYTHING > Except against JESUS!

SAME Situation for the 1st Readers of this LETTER > Pastor/Writer

CONNECTS their DISGRACE with the Disgrace of the CROSS

We BEAR the REPROACH He ENDURED > Object of SCORN

Easier TODAY to be False Teacher: YouTube, Blog, Radio/TV, TicTok

So many FOOLISH Xtians will PAY You Big Bucks for False Teaching

Don’t COME with HORNS – No WARNING “I am a False Teacher!”

Ignore the Guard Rails of SCRIPTURE and SPIRIT

LITMUS Test – Is FOCUS on Christ and his CROSS

SEE-SAW: God is UP / We are DOWN > SUMMONS to Serve, Sacrifice

OUTSIDE the Gate is where we Find GRACE > Cross is EMPTY

And TOMB is EMPTY > Penalty Paid > Guilt & Shame REMOVED

LONELY to be OUTSIDE the Camp > That's where JESUS IS!

NO Room in the INN – Nowhere to LAY His Head – Hang Him on Cross

Wherever BIBLE is Rejected as Word of God / Jesus denied as SAVIOR

WORLD may Not give you Grammy, Nobel Prize, Academic TENURE

Blessing of Salvation NOT Given without the DISGRACE of CROSS

“when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” 1 Corinthians 2.1,2

Jesus: “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” John 15.18,19

v. 14 REMINDER: World you are LEAVING is NOT LASTING

“For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”

World appears SAFE & SECURE but it is On a SLIPPERY SLOPE

Men and Women of FAITH – Hebrews 11 “looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God” v. 10

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

Jesus – Yesterday, Today, Forever

v. 8 POINT Not that Jesus is IMMUTABLE, Unchangeable, Eternal God

HE IS! But that is NOT Main POINT

POINT: Embrace PATTERN Xtian Life taught in Bible > Jesus is Same

1) His MINISTRY and CALL are Forever the SAME

Power and Authority still FLOW thru HIM

Jesus is BETTER FOREVER > Never Superseded or SET ASIDE

2) Xtian LIFE is the SAME for ALL Generations

Modern Church > Times are Changing, New Methods, Message

We Preach like JEREMIAH > Thus says the Lord: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls’ Jeremiah 6.16

3) We REPRESENT Jesus to our GENERATION

Not a Denomination, Organization, Tradition, Philosophy, Law: JESUS

Living WORDS about Living SAVIOR and how to LIVE IN HIM

Yesterday – Remember YOUR LEADERS > Outcome of their FAITH

Today - Don’t be LEAD ASTRAY by FALSE TEACHERS

Forever - continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God

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.