

Hebrews 13.17-25

Jesus Really is Better, and He wants Your Best!

NOW End of Letter: See Intentions / Relationships / Personality of Author

See – what we’ve seen – Warm, Pastoral, Relationship – Brothers in X

### 1. Concerned Pastor Shares Jesus

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

To Read these 13 chapters takes about HOUR > BRIEF Sermon

We all Want to Follow Bible! I should BEGIN to Preach MORE Briefly!

AUTHOR > Pastor Exhorts > Stick with Jesus > Only Savior, True God

TAKE AWAY > Pastor Loves People > Speaks TRUTH about JESUS

v. 22 “my word of exh.” INSPIRED by H.S.: God’s Word to THAT church & ALL Church

b. Everyone v. 24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings.

PROBABLY > Writing TO Italy – Jewish Background Xtians in ROME

Hawaiian 9<sup>th</sup> Island writing to Ohana in HI: ‘Aloha! Locals in Las Vegas...’

### 2. Challenge of Serving Jesus

v. 7 REMEMBER Leaders / Consider OUTCOME of Way of LIFE

Reading more about KA’AHUMANU – favorite wife of Kamehemeha I

Big & Beautiful – ZEAL for Life – Young Woman SURFER & LOVER

REGENT after Kam. Died > M’s arrived 1820 learned to be READER

1824 Queen Ka’ahumanu professed Faith in JESUS – Lord and Savior

Continued as LEADER > Follower of JESUS > Laws – 10 Commands

1826 Traveled to Kawaihae and Kohala > Stood on Stone Heiau > KAPU

Artemas Bishop wrote: “She LIFTED Up her hands, said ‘I thank God for what my eyes now see; Hawaii’s gods are no more’”

1832 NT Hawaiian language PRINTED at Mission Press Kawaiaha'o

1<sup>st</sup> Copy bound Red Morocco Leather rushed to death bed Elizabeth K.

Looked thru 1<sup>st</sup> copy of Scriptures and pronounced MAIKA'I – Excellent

Death of Eliz/Spread of NT > God moved 1/5 KAUA'I >> CONVERTED

Mission work that FOUNDED Kalahikiola Church started same yr 1832

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.

v. 17 Obey your leaders & 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.

NOW > Focus on LIVING Leaders of Church > OBEY and SUBMIT

WORDS – BRISTLE Against our INDEPENDENT Natures

Americans Treasure FREEDOM > 'nobody tells ME what to DO!'

Bible: ALL Submission: Church, Citizen/State, Wife/Husb, Child/Parents

UNTO the Lord > Submit to God when Submit to those He Appoints

Highest Authority GOD > Sometimes Disobey MAN to OBEY God

JESUS is Savior and HEAD of Church > Bought w/ Precious BLOOD

ALL Sinners saved by Grace > STAND LEVEL Ground @ Foot of Cross

Every Believer – Scriptures, Spirit, Standing in X > Responsible

Membership Class – Pastor to Inquirer "What do you believe about God?"

Person "I believe what this church believes!"

Pastor "What do you & this church believe?" >> The SAME THING!

Charles Simeon enrolled in Kings College, Cambridge in 1779

From Aristocratic family > Heard Gospel & Believed during UNI

Studied Theology > Ordained to Ministry at age 23

Appointed vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge

Members wanted another minister > Hated Simeon's Biblical Preaching

Members rented Pews w/ locks > Locked Pews and STAYED Home

10 yrs Those who came to hear Word were Forced to Stand in Aisles.

Simeon put Benches in Aisles > Church Wardens threw them Out

Charles Simeon: "When I was an object of much contempt and derision in the university, I strolled forth one day, buffeted and afflicted, with my little New Testament in my hand ... The first text which caught my eye was this: 'They found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; him they compelled to bear his cross.'" // **so SIMEON @ Cam bear HIS Cross**  
v. 13 let us go to him outside the camp & bear the reproach he endured

Slowly the Pews @ Holy Trinity Church Opened and Filled, Primarily w/ Students

TAUGHT them HOW to Preach > Pastored Holy Trinity @ Cam 50 yrs.

1/3 Anglican ministers in Britain after his Death sat under his teaching

Dozens young men from church: Gospel Distant Lands

When he was buried, the University of Cambridge, which had treated him so scandalously, paid him all the honors at its disposal.

1500 Students attended the service, & every college chapel tolled its bell

EX v. 17 "for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account"  
> 50 yrs Charles Simeon pointed Cam to Jesus

DENTIST is concerned about Your Teeth

STOCK Broker suggests INVESTMENTS

Faithful PASTOR wants your SOUL to Thrive – Now and FOREVER

Of ALL the Advisors & Contributors to Your Life –

How many Trying to KEEP you Out of Hell?

“accountable” – Church Leaders have Souls Too > Some Failed > HELL

v. 17 “Let them do this with joy and not groaning, for that would be no advantage to you”

Nobody wants WORKPLACE to be TOXIC Environment

Boss and Homies ALL NUHA – WEEKEND cannot come Soon Enough!

Same TRUE in Church – All kinds Problem/Pilikia – Sleep IN on Sunday!

“When a servant of God is in the will of God, teaching the Word of God, the people of God should follow”  
Warren Wiersbe

Pastor 40 years > INVITED Lots of People SERVE in LOCAL Church

ANSWER I HOPE for ‘Wow! Big Job! Not Sure! Worthy? Sinful! Weak’

SCARRY someone “Of course, I can handle, no prob, let me take over!”

Beauty of v. 18 – Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

NO WAY anyone can Serve Jesus in OWN Strength and Wisdom

GOD gives Grace to HUMBLE > BUT Resists the PROUD

NOT SURE Who is Author/Pastor of this LETTER

KNOW In COMPANY of Apostles APOSTOLIC ‘authority/blessing’

11 of 12 Apostles KILLED as MARTYRS > Like their LORD Jesus

v. 19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. >

We can only Guess what he was Restored from?? Not Holiday Cruise!

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

Timothy companion of Ap Paul even in Prison > Here Learn Timothy Also Arrested

Widely known TIMID Timothy Not Have VIGOR of Paul

Good NEWS for struggling Hebrews: God got Tim w/ Frequent Illnesses OUT of Prison

1. Concerned Pastor Shares Jesus 2. Challenge of Serving Jesus  
3. Comfort of a Sovereign Jesus

Writer/Pastor ASKED for their PRAYERS > vs. 20,21 Now he PRAYS for Them

FINAL Review of Key IDEAS 13 chapters

Peace, Blood, Covenant, RISEN Christ, Spiritual Maturity

Great High Priest >> Good Shepherd GAVE Life for Sheep

Familiar END All NT Letters > Benediction OR Doxology / Heb. BOTH!

B: 'good word' – prayer to God on behalf of readers

D: song of praise to God > “to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen”

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.

GOD given them NEW LIFE of PEACE

CHRIST established ETERNAL COVENANT thru His BLOOD

EQUIPS us with EVERY GOOD THING to DO His WILL

WORK in ALL of Us to things that are PLEASING to GOD

BLESSING of God and GIVING Glory to God WOVEN Together!

KEY to Understanding GOSPEL and CHRISTIAN Life

v. 21 “working in us that which is pleasing in his sight thru Jesus Christ”

IF Person going to DO God’s Will > GOD MUST Work IN Them

Elizabeth Ka’ahumanu KNEW This v. 21 ‘equip U w/ Everything Good’

Her Dying Words from Hwn HYMN sung @ Funeral in Kawaiaha’o Ch.

“Now I will go to Jesus, my Lord who pitied me.

And at his feet lay prostrate, For there I cannot die!’

“Jesus Christ is the Altar upon whom all our spiritual sacrifices are to be offered”

Jeremiah Burroughs

“The Father communicates all his love to us through Christ and we pour 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 the Father.” John Owen

v. 21 KJV “make you perfect in every good work to do his will”

v. 21 ESV “equip you with everything good that you may do his will”

Word for Equip/Perfect – FAMILIAR word to 1<sup>st</sup> C Readers of Letter

DOCTORS used word for – SETTING a Broken BONE

FISHERMEN used word for – MENDING a Damaged NET

SAILORS used word to – OUTFIT a Ship for a New VOYAGE

SOLDIERS used word – EQUIP an Army for BATTLE

JESUS wants to – FULLY EQUIP us for All our LIFE on Earth

SET RIGHT anything that is BROKEN for us to RUN a Good RACE

MEND any TEARS so we can be FISHERS of Men for His Kingdom

OUTFIT us to SAIL thru STORMS of Life to Harbor of HEAVEN

PUT ON Full ARMOR of GOSPEL to Withstand Evil & ADVANCE

By NATURE we THINK Benediction and Doxology are CONTRARY

What is ULTIMATELY for God’s PLEASURE Steals from My Pleasure

NON-Christian FEARS the GLORY of God > THIEF from My Happiness

“God is going to KILL ME Before I DO what I Really Want to DO!”

SURE – I Want to GO to HEAVEN – But FIRST I’ve Got MY PLANS!

Graduate – Good Job – Marry – Have Sex – Kids – Travel – Experience

FAIL to Realize ALL Good Things of Life COME From GOD

Something NEW > READ Owner’s Manual – USE RIGHT, Works Best

Study – Jobs – Marriage – Sex – Kids – Travel – ALL OF LIFE w GOD

13 chapters Pastor REASONED / Exhorted > ‘Jesus is Better’

**Jesus Really is Better, and He wants Your Best!**

Pastors / Theologians from British Empire – 2 years Westminster Abbey

Studied Scriptures make Clear DECLARATION of its Message

Finished 1647 – Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man? – WHY are We ALIVE?

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

How do we KNOW God LOVES Us? Healthy? 3 Month Income Buffer?

Met FRIEND for FANCY Lunch in POSH Hotel on Wilshire Blvd in LA

SURPRISED to Find Homeless Guy BATHING in Sink POSH Bathroom

Just ME and HIM – Had a CHAT with HIM – TRYING Not to STARE!

**“You are 3 PAY CHECKS Away from Where I AM!”**

We KNOW God LOVES Us GAVE Jesus! > Blood of X Shed for You

“The atonement is a repulsive subject to many: they flinch to think that God would require blood-shedding to achieve his goals. There is hardly a more arresting site than human blood being spilled. People see blood and they faint. They stumble upon a crime scene, or a traffic accident, and stop dead in their tracks to realize they are looking at a stain of human blood on the ground. Blood is the very presence of death and suffering and lament. Yet it is with the shedding of his own Son’s precious blood that God makes his most important and essential and final statement to this world, statements we must hear and receive if we are going to come to God for salvation.”  
Richard Phillips

YOUR BLESSING and GOD’S GLORY Go TOGETHER

IF this is TRUE > Essential that we HOLD On to Jesus –

Readers of this Letter – Like Us – Facing Rapidly Changing World

No Guarantees of Safety, Security – Dark Clouds on Horizon

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever

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.

FINAL WORDS WE NEED v. 25 Grace be with all of you.

Hebrews 13.<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. <sup>19</sup>I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. <sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. <sup>23</sup>You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. <sup>24</sup>Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. <sup>25</sup>Grace be with all of you.