

HEBREWS 13 vs 1

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This closing chapter starts with the 2nd Law of love. And what is the meaning of love? Dr. Dallas Willard of USC reminds us: **it is to seek the care and wellbeing and concern of another**. We live in a world where love = lust, our strong desires; where I want what I want rules. It is a world that says: I love ice cream. But we don't love it; we desire ice cream; we want to eat ice cream. Dr. Willard adds: we live in a world created to be a safe place for children, but no longer. History is full of examples of mistaken facts that were thought to be true but were not. Our generation will not be an exception to that history.



The night He was betrayed, the Lord said **by this they will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another**. Jesus added, **if you love Me, keep my commandments**. He who does not love Me, does not keep My sayings -- John 13,14.

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for doing this some not knowing, have entertained angels / in every generation, people unlike us are sent among us; people of different customs, interests, abilities and experiences. The Lord spelled out these encounters through the prophets: **some envoy of God's Good News may have stepped into our surroundings**. Zechariah 7:8-14.

3 Remember the prisoners, as if we are in prison with them; and those who suffer adversity, since you also are mortals / in our time we must remember the persecuted church in the world... and not just passively remember them; **but speak up - protest when we have opportunity**.

Check out: **Voice of Martyrs** **Bible League Intl** **Voice of Martyrs - Canada** **FEBC** and **Open Doors**
And don't forget to support and promote these wonderful organizations; helping our brothers and sisters.

4 Marriage is honorable to all, keep the bed undefiled / one husband, one wife:

but fornicators and adulterers / who sexually gratify themselves, even if they destroy the lives of children for their own twisted pleasure, or murder the unborn baby -- no longer safe in a mother's womb, instead of to know there is some kid walking around who hates them the rest of their life; married adults who are unfaithful to their spouses, and the sexually immoral, **God will judge**.


5 Let your behavior be without greed, and be content with what you have: for He has said, I will never leave you, nor abandon you / let your character, your manner of conduct lack unsatisfied greed, attempting to feed the greatest idol – which is our self.

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⁶ So we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, I will not fear. What can anyone do to me?**

 ⁷ **Remember those** / the verb is: **hegeo = leading + omai = for the benefit of others**. In the previous chapter, we learned men **and** women who oversee His sheep, leading who we are **out in front**, **[1]** that hands are not weak, and knees are not wobbly; **[2]** that paths are straight even for the lame not to fall from the way; **[3]** that all who are set apart for the LORD pursue peace; and we learn additional characteristics of these men **and** women:

Remember those **out in front** -- some are living; others might be dead -- for many years like C.S. Lewis and A.W. Tozer, with Martin Luther, and so many others through their writings continue to lead even today.

 **Remember those leading, [4] who spoke the word of God to you: follow their faith** / follow their example,
consider their behavior and how they ended / think about how they were out in front urging us to do what Jesus told us, the night He was betrayed.

⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

⁹ **Do not be tossed about by all sorts of strange teachings. For it is good that the heart be established with grace** / confirmed, stabilized... with the gracious active presence of God; **and not by food rules which never benefited those who observed them** / do not feed our own appetites, Paul wrote: the kingdom of God is not about what we eat and what we drink, but doing things right, and joy and peace in the Holy Spirit -- **Romans 14**.

¹⁰ **We have an altar of which they who serve in the tabernacle have no right to eat** / our High Priest has gone on before us; we're anchored in hope to Him. Those feeding at the old temporary place; feed on the old way of the lifeless and routine. They have no appetite for the new and **better way**.

¹¹ **For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest, as a sin offering, are burned outside the camp** / day after day, year after year, and saved nobody.

¹² **Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate, that He set apart and make whole His people with His own blood.**

¹³ **So, let us go to Him outside the camp, bearing His disgrace** / sharing what He endured for us.

¹⁴ **For here we have no continuing city, instead we seek one to come** / like Abraham of old, who diligently searched for the City whose architect and maker is God -- **Hebrews 11**.

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15 **Through Him let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name** -- the suffering Servant who cried out, My God, why did you forsake me; also knew the promise at the end of the song; My praise will be of You in the great congregation -- Psalm 22.

16 **Do not neglect to do good and share for God is pleased with such sacrifices.**

17 **Obey those leading** / so they are out in front... NOT sitting in a big chair yapping orders from some fancy ivory tower;

[5] for they watch for your souls / they watch for their own soul; and also for the weak and wobbly; they watch for crooked paths approaching; and for those following the Lord in peace;

as they who must give account / someday before God they will account for their leading;

submit yourselves to them that they do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you / Jesus said, he who humbles himself, will be exalted; as Jesus willingly did to His Father; it is what children do; and wives and husbands do looking unto JESUS to train us His way: God does not like division; we are to respect the men and women who lead in the church Jesus is building.

18 **Pray for us: for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to live honorably in all things.**

19 **I urge you all to pray, that I may be restored to you very soon.**

20 **Now the God of peace, who brought from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.**

21 **perfecting you in every good work to do His will** / which means we are not perfect yet; only twice, outside the Gospel is the word used: here and when Peter wrote: we were sheep gone astray, but now returned to the Shepherd of our soul -- 1 Peter 2.

Remember: Jesus said: **I Am the Good Pastor.**

working in you what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. / so it's not according to your will or mine; not your sight or mine; not your opinion or mine;

Amen.



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²² **I urge you, brothers and sisters, bear with this encouraging letter: for I have written to you briefly** / does the writer has a sense of humor; this lengthy letter fully addresses the new and better way... looking unto the risen JESUS... and how we live in His community, and think rightly, and serve one another gladly. This letter to the Hebrews clearly spells out **the way of faith**.

Had the writer been primarily focusing on **the great Pastor of the sheep**, then like John he could have said, many other things JESUS did, if they should be written, that the world cannot contain all the books that should be written -- John 21.

²³ **Notice our brother Timothy is released; if he comes quickly, we will see you.**

²⁴ **Greet all those leading, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you** / we know Paul went to Italy, and then to Spain. We also know the household of Caractacus (Caradoc) the British Silurian king (the book of Romans is written to them); who was captured by treachery, who is the only foreign leader who was seized, who addressed the Roman Senate and was given house arrest with his family residing at the Palatium Britannicum...

²⁵ **Grace to you all. Amen.**

