

**"The Practical Application"**

**Hebrews 13:1-25**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of Hebrews we have come to the last chapter of this amazing letter. This chapter which we are about to step into is the pinnacle of the entire letter. To many who read this letter they would most likely disagree with that statement but you will see why I say this in a moment.

The first 11 chapters of this letter deal with THEOLOGY and DOCTRINE. Then in chapter 12 the writer brings what he has taught into the lives of his readers and he exhorts them to run the race with patience, surrender to the chastening hand of God and then strengthen those who have grown weary. Now as we approach this last chapter the writer will give details as to how to live the exhortations of chapter 12. Here in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews the writer gets right into the lives of his readers and he explains how they are to live.

They now had all the theology of the first 11 chapters and so they are now expected to live what they know. The writer poured out the theology of the first 11 chapters so as to equip these people to live the way which is described in chapter 13. The writer gave to them an inexhaustible amount of doctrine which they were now expected to tap into in order to strengthen their faith in the midst of the trials and the tests of their faith.

**Application:**

We also are expected to now live what it is which we have studied since January 7, 2015. We are responsible for the theology and the doctrine of chapters 1-11 of the book of Hebrews.

**Matthew 25:14-19**

*<sup>14</sup> For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*<sup>15</sup> And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

*<sup>16</sup> Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*<sup>17</sup> And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

*<sup>18</sup> But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

<sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

This is really the pattern throughout the New Testament. The writer presents doctrine and theology and then he presents to his readers the application. Jesus did the very same thing when He preached the Sermon on the Mount. He taught Kingdom Theology in Matthew 5 and 6 and then in chapter 7 He presented His listeners with a cross roads which was the 2 paths and 2 gates.

Here in Hebrews we now have the exhortation to live what we have just learned. It is interesting here in Hebrews that in the first 11 chapters the writer speaks of our relationship and our responsibility toward God and now he will write concerning our relationship and responsibility toward our fellow man. In this we see the cross of Jesus Christ.

#### I. Exhortation #1- LOVE

##### Notice Hebrews 13:1

The first exhortation which the writer presents is the key to the ones which follow. He exhorts his readers to let brotherly love continue. When we choose to love those whom are in our lives everything else will fall into place. Let me show you what Paul wrote in Romans.

##### Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup> *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

<sup>9</sup> *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

<sup>10</sup> Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

When we love those around us we will not consider committing adultery with their spouse, we will not consider harming them in any way, we will not consider stealing from them, we will not consider bearing false witness about them and we will not covet what they have but we will rejoice with them in their blessings. Love causes no ill in the lives of others.

This is exactly why the writer exhorts his readers to exercise brotherly love.

Notice Hebrews 13:1 again.

The "brotherly love" here could have 2 applications to the Hebrews. It could refer to all their fellow Jews which would include those who were bringing the persecution. You see, the writer is calling them to turn their backs upon Judaism and it was those who were in Judaism who were persecuting the Hebrew believers. Therefore it can be an exhortation to love even their persecutors.

Paul was constantly persecuted by the Jews but at the same time he loved them deeply.

**Romans 9:1-4a,**

*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,*

<sup>2</sup> **That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.**

<sup>3</sup> *For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

<sup>4</sup> *Who are Israelites;*

**Romans 10:1**

*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

Paul had a great burden for his fellow Jews. So this was one way in which the exhortation could be applied to the Hebrew's lives. But there was also another application. It could be applied to their fellow believers. This is most likely the main thought in the mind of the writer.

When he exhorts them he tells them to let brotherly love CONTINUE. This tells us brotherly love already existed within the lives of these believers. So the exhortation was to keep it going.

Love for other believers is something which marks us as true believers.

**1 John 4:7-13, 20-21**

<sup>7</sup> *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and **every one that loveth is born of God**, and knoweth God.*

<sup>8</sup> **He that loveth not knoweth not God;** for God is love.

<sup>9</sup> *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

<sup>10</sup> *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

<sup>11</sup> *Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*

<sup>12</sup> *No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

<sup>13</sup> *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

<sup>20</sup> **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**

<sup>21</sup> *And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

The words of John are very strong here in this passage and there is a reason he is so sure about love for fellow believers being the mark of TRUE salvation.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for **ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.***

<sup>10</sup> *And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;*

Paul's words here in 1 Thessalonians explain why John can be so strong with his words when he says, "***Every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?***"

Every person who is saved is TAUGHT by God to love one another. God is love and we are given His Spirit when we are saved and therefore love comes natural to the believer.

### Romans 5:5

<sup>5</sup> *And hope maketh not ashamed; because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

So this then raises a question, "Why does the writer of Hebrews exhort them to let brotherly love CONTINUE?"

The writer knows that if brotherly love is not maintained it will begin to dissolve and to fade. It comes natural when we are first saved but as time passes we can become involved in our own lives so much that we begin to neglect our love toward our fellow saints. Love can grow cold if it is not maintained and this is what the writer of Hebrews is concerned about. Under the persecution there would be the danger of becoming SELF focused and the danger of neglecting to invest into the lives of others.

Now let me show you what our love for other believers is supposed to be like.

**1 John 3:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

<sup>17</sup> *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

<sup>18</sup> *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth.*

II. **Exhortation #2 - Hospitality**

**Notice Hebrews 13:2**

The hospitality spoken of here is far different than what we know today. This is not inviting someone in the church to your house for dinner and then they return the favor by doing the same for you at a later date.

In the days when this letter was written there were men who were called into the ministry and they walked away from everything which they possessed trusting in the Lord to provide for their needs. As these men would travel from town to town they were in need of accommodations. We can see a picture of this in 3 John.

**3 John 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers:*

<sup>6</sup> *Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:*

<sup>7</sup> *Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.*

<sup>8</sup> *We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.*

We can see another example of this hospitality in the life of Lydia.

**Acts 16:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

<sup>15</sup> *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

When God opened her heart she opened her house to those who were in the ministry.

Hospitality was essential in the early church and it is spoken of many times in the New Testament.

**1 Peter 4:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

<sup>9</sup> *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

Those who were leaders in the church were expected to be hospitable.

**1 Timothy 3:1-2**

*This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*

<sup>2</sup> *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

**Titus 1:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

<sup>8</sup> *But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;*

For someone to refuse to show hospitality was a sign of rejection of the person and their message.

**Matthew 10:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

<sup>8</sup> *Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

<sup>9</sup> *Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,*

<sup>10</sup> *Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

<sup>11</sup> *And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.*

<sup>12</sup> *And when ye come into an house, salute it.*

<sup>13</sup> *And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.*

<sup>14</sup> *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.*

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*Hebrews Study #126*

Let me now get your mind back to Hebrews 13. There were no motels back then and the inns were places of immorality and filth. There is an early writing in which the person looking for a place to stay is looking for an inn with the "fewest of fleas/bugs". The traveling servant of God needed friendly accommodations. Therefore these believers were not to forget to show hospitality. We are going to come back to this subject again next week because the Bible has much to say about hospitality.