

**"The Practical Application"**

**Hebrews 13:1-25**

**Introduction:** As we have been studying this letter written to the Hebrews we have considered many times what it was which these people were facing. They faced physical persecution because they chose to walk away from Judaism and to follow Jesus Christ. They also faced the pressures of the false teachers of their day. I want to take a few moments to do my best to help us to better understand what it was like to live as a believer back then.

These people were New Testament saints and they were the New Testament church but they did not have a New Testament Bible. They relied upon the teaching of the Apostles.

**Acts 2:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

<sup>40</sup> And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

<sup>41</sup> Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup> And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Now in this time period Satan raised up many false teachers and false apostles to confuse and to mislead the church. These false teachers seemed to be many in number.

**2 Corinthians 2:17a**

<sup>17</sup> For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God:

A great number of the false teachers were Judaizers who tried their best to bring the Law into the church and mix it with Grace.

**Acts 15:1, 24**

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

<sup>24</sup> Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

These false teachers were able to make their way into the church at Galatia and their teaching caused much confusion within the church.

### Galatians 3:1-3

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*

<sup>2</sup> *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

<sup>3</sup> *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Now let us get back to the letter to the Hebrews. Those who received this letter were also confronted with the Judaizers. There were false teachers who were trying to pull them back under the Law. Keep in mind the sacrificial system is still functioning and these people had grown up in Judaism. The test they were facing was extremely trying. This brings us to the next exhortation found in Hebrews 13.

#### I. Exhortation #7 - Be Stedfast

### Notice Hebrews 13:9a

The writer now exhorts them to guard against being carried away with different and strange doctrines. There were doctrines/teachings being taught back then that were contrary to the Doctrine of the Apostles. These people were expected to recognize the false doctrines and to stand against them. They were saved long enough that they were expected to be grounded in the Truth. I am reminded of what the writer confronted his readers with earlier in this letter.

### Hebrews 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup> *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.*

<sup>12</sup> For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

<sup>13</sup> *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

<sup>14</sup> *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

The entire letter of Hebrews is a call to "step it up" in their New Life in Christ and because they had everything they need to recognize false teaching they were to put it into practice. Let me show you how THEY were and WE are equipped. John the Apostle wrote concerning false teachers and he informed his readers they had been equipped by the Father to enable them to recognize false teaching.

### 1 John 2:18-27

<sup>18</sup> *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

<sup>19</sup> *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

<sup>20</sup> **But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.**

<sup>21</sup> *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

<sup>22</sup> *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*

<sup>23</sup> *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

<sup>24</sup> *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*

<sup>25</sup> *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

<sup>26</sup> *These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.*

<sup>27</sup> **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you:** *but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

Here in verse 27 John is not saying that we do not need to be taught he is saying that everyone who is saved has been given the Holy Spirit and when we walk in fellowship with our Lord the Spirit of God will help us to discern between Truth and error. Let me show you the Words of Jesus as recorded by John.

### John 16:12-13

<sup>12</sup> *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

<sup>13</sup> Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

From these verses we can clearly see that every believer has within them the Holy Spirit who enables us to know Truth from error. But we **MUST** be in tune with Him. The Hebrews were given the Holy Spirit therefore they too could discern between Truth and error and therefore the exhortation here is to exercise discernment and to stand in the Truth.

### **Notice Hebrews 13:9**

In the second part of this verse we get a small look at what they were struggling with in their lives. They were to **ESTABLISH THEIR HEARTS IN GRACE**. Grace here is in contrast to the Law. We will come back to this statement in a moment. In this verse we see the Judaizers seemed to have imposed upon the Hebrews some sort of dietary restrictions. But the dietary restrictions had no spiritual benefit at all.

### **1 Corinthians 8:8**

<sup>8</sup> But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.

God made it very clear to Peter that all meat was clean and could be consumed.

### **Acts 10:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

<sup>10</sup> And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

<sup>11</sup> And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

<sup>12</sup> Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

<sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

Under the Law however there were many dietary restrictions and so the Judaizers were determined to place the Hebrew believers back under the Law. But the writer of Hebrews makes it very clear the dietary restrictions which the Judaizers had no spiritual benefit. So instead of establishing their hearts in these dietary restrictions they were to **ESTABLISH THEIR HEARTS IN GRACE**. What does this mean?

They were to come apart from the Law. They were no longer under the Law but they were under GRACE.

**Romans 10:14**

<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Let me show you what Paul recorded in Galatians.

**Galatians 2:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

<sup>21</sup> I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

For the Hebrews to mix Law and GRACE would be to frustrate the GRACE of God. The word "FRUSTRATE" means "to set aside". I want you to listen to what I am about to say, "When a believer mixes Law with Grace, when a believer declares that we have to live by a certain set of rules to be saved, or to be accepted by God, they are then declaring that salvation by GRACE through FAITH is invalid." That is what it means to frustrate the GRACE of God. When the Judaizers came into the church of Galatia and preached that circumcision was required for salvation they were declaring the Doctrine of Salvation by Grace through Faith was invalid.

**Notice Hebrews 13:9 again.**

They were therefore to establish their hearts in GRACE. They were to understand that they were saved by grace through faith and not of any works and they were kept saved by grace.

**Galatians 3:1-3**

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*

<sup>2</sup> *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

<sup>3</sup> *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Paul asked a pointed question to the Galatians, "Do you think that after you are saved GRACE that you are then made perfect by works?" They were not made perfect by works and neither is any believer. We are made perfect by the finished work of Jesus Christ.

### **Colossians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

The Hebrews were complete in Christ. They were saved by GRACE through FAITH and they were now standing in the GRACE of God. They could not add one thing to their salvation by going back to the Law. They were therefore to establish their hearts in this GRACE and REST IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. In this New Life in Christ they were to LIVE BY FAITH.

### **Conclusion/Application:**

There are many false teachers today and we must be very careful about getting lured into their doctrines. God has given to us the Holy Spirit who does for us what He did for the Hebrews. He gives to us the discernment to recognize false teaching. There is also another means which God has provided for us to be equipped in this spiritual battle. He has placed gifted men within the church to teach and to train the saints.

### **Ephesians 4:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

<sup>12</sup> *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

<sup>13</sup> *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

<sup>14</sup> *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

<sup>15</sup> *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

It is our responsibility to learn the Truth and then to walk in fellowship with our Lord so as to be in tune with the Holy Spirit. We live in a day when there are many out to distort/destroy the Truth.

### **2 Peter 3:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

<sup>4</sup> *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

Paul warned the Corinthians about the skill of these false teachers in 2 Corinthians.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*

<sup>14</sup> *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

<sup>15</sup> *Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

This is why it is so important for us to be taught the Truth of God's Word and to be in fellowship with our Lord.