

"The Practical Application"

Hebrews 13:1-25

Introduction: Last week in our study of Hebrews we looked at the exhortation found in Hebrews 13:9 which was to "Be Stedfast". There was much false teaching during the days of the early church. The church was in a spiritual over the Word of God. These Hebrews were to hold tightly to the Doctrine of the Apostles which they had been taught and they were to guard against being pulled back under the Law.

Notice Hebrews 13:9

These believers were faced with the temptation to compromise and to mix Law with Grace. The Hebrews were to establish their hearts with Grace and not with meats. There may have been dietary restrictions which were being imposed upon the Hebrew believers but if that was the case then they needed to understand there was no value in eating or not eating. When Paul wrote Colossians he warned his readers about getting entangled in "RELIGION".

Colossians 2:8-10, 13-17

⁸ *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

⁹ *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

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

¹³ *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

¹⁴ *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

¹⁵ *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

¹⁶ *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

¹⁷ *Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

Now as we get back to the book of Hebrews we shall see the next exhortation.

I. Exhortation #8 – Be Separated

Notice Hebrews 13:10

Now the writer is going to point to that which was of great importance to the Hebrews and that was the ALTAR. The Brazen Altar held a special place in the heart of every one of the Hebrews. I want to take some time to help us to see how the Hebrews viewed the Brazen Altar. The Brazen Altar was set just inside the door of the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

Exodus 40:6

⁶ And thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

The Brazen Altar was made of wood and it was overlaid with brass for it had to be able to withstand the continuous fire which consumed the sacrifices placed upon it. The Altar was the very first thing to meet the eye of the worshipper when they brought their sacrifice. The Altar was the means of approach to God for it was upon the Altar where the innocent would die for the guilty. It was at the Altar where God had promised to meet with the children of Israel.

Exodus 29:42-43

⁴² This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.

⁴³ And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.

The Altar was Israel connection with God. It was on the Altar where the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering, and the sin offering was presented to God. It was at the Altar where certain parts of the sacrifices which were offered to God were consumed by the worshipper. Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 10:18

¹⁸ Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?

We can also see the importance of the Altar when we look at the book of Ezra.

Ezra 3:1-3

And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

² *Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and **builided the altar of the God of Israel**, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.*

³ *And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear was upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD, even burnt offerings morning and evening.*

The Altar was the very first thing which the people set up when they returned from the captivity under Ezra. They set up the Altar before they began to rebuild the Temple. Over and over we can see the value of the Altar in the life of the Jew. So for the Hebrews to step away from the Altar and the entire economy of Judaism was difficult. But throughout the book of Hebrews the writer has been pointing to Jesus who is better than anything of the Old Covenant and he will now continue that very thought.

Let us also understand the unbelieving Jews who were deep into Judaism were most likely antagonizing the believers by pointing to the fact they had no Altar in their life of Christianity.

Notice Hebrews 13:10 again.

The writer informs the Hebrews that while they are called to step away from the Brazen Altar and all of Judaism they now have an Altar which is far better than the Brazen Altar. The Altar which the writer points to here is the cross. The cross is a Superior Altar for upon the cross the Greatest Sacrifice of all was made and offered to God. The sacrifices of the Brazen Altar were offered over and over again because the blood of those sacrifices were not able to take sin but they only covered the sins of the people.

Hebrews 10:1-9, 14

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² *For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

³ *But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*

⁴ *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

⁵ *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:*

⁶ *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*

⁷ *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*

⁸ *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law:*

⁹ *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

The cross is the Altar of Grace whereas the Brazen Altar was the Altar of Law. Now under the Law the people were permitted to eat certain parts of the offerings which were burned on the Brazen Altar. For the Hebrew believers the consumption of the meat offered on the Brazen Altar was obsolete compared to the Altar of the cross and the Fruit from this Altar. The Hebrew believers had a better Altar and a better Sacrifice. Instead of feeding upon the meat of dead animals they had access to the Bread of Life. But those who were under Judaism were forbidden to eat of the Altar of Grace while they clung to the Brazen Altar of the Law. The Hebrews believers had a higher and a holier privilege for they could enjoy eternal communion with God. To go back to the Brazen Altar and the meats offered there would be to treat the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as though it was of no importance.

Notice Hebrews 13:11

Now in this verse the writer points to the Sin Offering which was offered under the Old Covenant. He is going to use this to show the need for separation in the lives of the Hebrew believers and he will do this in a most beautiful way, through typology.

The Sin Offering was offered on the Day of Atonement and it was to be taken outside the camp and burned there. No one could eat of the Sin Offering.

Leviticus 16:3, 27

³ Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

²⁷ And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, **shall one carry forth without the camp:** and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

Let me show you the words of Spurgeon on the Sin Offering:

"The priest was not allowed to burn the bull itself upon the altar, but he was commanded to take up the whole carcass—its skin, flesh, head, and everything—and carry the whole outside the camp. It was a sin offering, and therefore it was loathsome in God's sight, and the priest went right away from the door of the tabernacle, past all the tents of the children of Israel, bearing this ghastly burden upon him. He went until he came to the place where the ashes of the camp were poured out, and there—not upon an altar, but on wood that had been prepared, upon the bare ground—every single particle of the bull was burned with fire. The distance the bull was carried from camp is said to have been four miles."

Now let us look at the Picture.

Notice Hebrews 13:12

The Sin Offering was a picture of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ for Jesus suffered outside the gate and He was the GREAT SIN OFFERING. The phrase "OUTSIDE THE CAMP" to the Israelite referred to the wilderness or outside the Tabernacle and when the writer tells us that Jesus suffered "OUTSIDE THE GATE" he means outside of Jerusalem. When Jesus died on the cross he took upon Him the sins of the world and therefore he had to be taken to a place of separation. As our Substitute He could no longer dwell in the place of Divine favor but had to be separated. We see this in His words from the cross.

Matthew 27:45-46

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?* that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**

Let me show you what John recorded.

John 19:15-17

¹⁵ *But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.*

¹⁶ *Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.*

¹⁷ *And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

Keeping with the Roman practice prisoners were always executed outside of the city.

Notice Hebrews 13:12

Here is something here which I want to show you. We are SANCTIFIED by His BLOOD. Now let me show you just how secure we are because of His offering.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

Jesus was despised and rejected and it was all for our forgiveness. He was separated from the Father so as to take our JUDGMENT so that we could have eternal life.

Now let us see the application which the writer makes.

Notice Hebrews 13:13

The call here is to separate from the Judaism. Sure it was not easy and it came with a great cost but so did the sacrifice which Jesus made. It cost Him His life. Therefore they were to endure the shame and the reproach of their fellow Jews for they were to be followers of Jesus Christ not of Judaism.

Notice Hebrews 13:14

This world was not their home. They were seeking a city as the Old Testament saints were. They were to be living for the heavenly Zion.

Hebrews 11:13-16

¹³ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

¹⁴ For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

¹⁵ And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

¹⁶ But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Conclusion/Application:

There are so many points of application here but there is one which I need to point out. There are many who come to Jesus Christ for salvation and after they are saved they refuse to make a clean break from the RELIGION which they were once immersed in. Many times it is because of family or tradition. So they are saved but they are held back because they refuse to "come out from among them".

Luke 14:25-27

²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.