

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 13:10-25, Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What is the contrast and application for believers today in Hebrews 13:10-13?*
2. *How can we ‘go out’ i.e. “**go forth**” to Jesus (Hebrews 13:13)?*
3. *What should believers be looking for and why (Hebrews 13:14)?*
4. *What are the sacrifices that God is well pleased with (Hebrews 13:15-16)?*
5. *What obligations do leaders and congregation have towards each other (Hebrews 13:7-9; 17-19)?*
6. *What does the author pray for in behalf of his readers (Hebrews 13:20-21)?*
7. *Why does the author urge them to ‘bear with my word of exhortation’ i.e. “**suffer the word of exhortation**” (Hebrews 13:22)?*
8. *How is this prayer linked to the idea of worshipping and pleasing God (Hebrews 13:20-21)?*

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 13:10-25, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 354-369 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1615-1616 for detailed comments.

1. What is the contrast and application for believers today in Hebrews 13:10-13?

The contrast and application for today's believers is that theirs is an altar for *spiritual* sacrifices that is totally separate from the *physical* altar of those "***which serve the tabernacle***" Hebrews 13:10 as Paul explains further.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" Hebrews 13:15.

That sacrifice may cost the believer something. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Hebrews ch 12 Part 1 p 6.

Keep in mind, however, cases such as those of the Lord's faithful servant Lillian Ladele, with respect to this note from *The Christian Institute* April 24th 2013. See:

www.christian.org.uk/news/christian-registrar-appeals-european-ruling/?e260413

Christian registrar appeals European ruling

Lillian Ladele, a Christian registrar who was pushed out of her job because of her conscientious beliefs about civil partnerships, is taking her case to the next level of the European Court of Human Rights...

Paul sets out the fellow Christians' responsibility of supportive prayer in such a case in New Testament law:

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2.

Sister Lillian's case continues to be a matter for prayer, watching for her eventual vindication by "***the Lord Almighty***" Himself 2 Corinthians 6:18.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" Ephesians 6:18.

2. How can we 'go out' i.e. "go forth" to Jesus (Hebrews 13:13)?

Hebrews 13:13 states "***Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.***"

The individual believer goes forth to the Lord Jesus Christ the same way that Sister Lillian has, by refusing to conform to the world, as Paul and Peter exhort.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Romans 12:2.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" 1 Peter 4:19.

Note also the wisdom of Dr Bob Jones Snr. strader.cehd.tamu.edu/BobJonesQuotes.php.

"Do right though the stars fall."

Dr Bob understood what John urged, which may be a comfort to Sister Lillian and others in a similar situation. See www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19467554 *Christian discrimination claims heard*



Lillian Ladele

The Christian Institute's Legal Defence Fund is financially backing Miss Ladele's legal appeal.

by *European court*. The other cases in addition to Sister Lillian's are those of Ms Nadia Eweida, Mrs Shirley Chaplin and Mr Gary McFarlane. Only Ms Eweida appears to have been successful in her appeal to the ECHR. John's exhortation, which this writer hopes would be an encouragement to all those in such circumstances, is as follows.

"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" 1 John 2:17.

3. *What should believers be looking for and why (Hebrews 13:14)?*

Hebrews 13:14 states ***"For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come."***

Peter answers *Question 3*.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up...Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" 2 Peter 3:10, 13.

John explains about the city to come ***"wherein dwelleth righteousness"*** given that Paul says of today's believers ***"I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ"*** 2 Corinthians 11:2.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" Revelation 21:2.

The residents there will each have his very own of ***"many mansions"*** John 14:2, not just a bed-sit or room, 1984 NIV or even less, a bed-space, 2011 NIV.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" John 14:2.

4. *What are the sacrifices that God is well pleased with (Hebrews 13:15-16)?*

See *Question 2*.

Note that Sisters Eweida, Chaplin, Ladele and Brother McFarlane obeyed Hebrews 13:16 in doing good and communicating their faith by keeping their respective testimonies despite persecution **"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."**

Paul's exhortation should therefore be prayed for them and any of the Lord's saints in similar circumstances **"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness"** Colossians 1:9-11.

5. *What obligations do leaders and congregation have towards each other (Hebrews 13:7-9; 17-19)?*

Leaders:

- *To set believers a right example of faith and works that merits being followed, Hebrews 13:7:*

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" 1 Timothy 4:12.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php Hebrews Chapter 13 Part 1 pp 4-5.

- To ensure believers are “**not carried about with divers and strange doctrines**” Hebrews 13:9 by assimilating and imparting “**good doctrine**” i.e. “**sound doctrine**”:

“be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine” 1 Timothy 4:6.

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” Titus 2:1.

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity” Titus 2:7.

- To keep watch over believers for whom account must be given in that as Paul says of the leaders “**they watch for your souls, as they that must give account**” Hebrews 13:17:

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock” 1 Peter 5:2-3.

- To maintain before believers “**a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly**” Hebrews 13:18:

“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” Acts 24:16.

Congregation:

- To follow the right example of faith and works set by “**them which have the rule over you**” Hebrews 13:7 in turn setting a right example for others:

“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia” 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7.

- To follow “**the words of faith and of good doctrine**” 1 Timothy 4:6 that the leaders impart especially in combating “**divers and strange doctrines**” Hebrews 13:9:

“For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you” 2 Thessalonians 3:7.

- To “**Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves**” Hebrews 13:17:

“For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him” 2 Corinthians 7:14-15.

“And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” 2 Thessalonians 3:7.

- To pray for “**them that have the rule over you**” Hebrews 13:17:

“Brethren, pray for us” 1 Thessalonians 5:25.

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you” 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

“Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly” Hebrews 13:18.

6. What does the author pray for in behalf of his readers (Hebrews 13:20-21)?

Paul prays that ***“the God of peace”*** Himself Hebrews 13:20 would work in the Hebrews to do God’s will fully and in every respect in them through the Lord Jesus Christ. That is an excellent prayer on behalf of anyone e.g. immediate family etc. as are the following. Each passage refers to the believer being in and/or doing God’s perfect will or fulfilling His calling to the believer.

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” Colossians 1:9-10.

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” Colossians 4:12.

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

“Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ” 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

“Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus” Philimon 3-6.

7. Why does the author urge them to ‘bear with my word of exhortation’ i.e. ***“suffer the word of exhortation”*** (Hebrews 13:22)?

See Question 6. In sum, Paul is concerned that the Hebrews ***“might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God”*** Colossians 1:9-10.

8. How is this prayer linked to the idea of worshipping and pleasing God (Hebrews 13:20-21)?

This prayer is linked to worshipping and pleasing God in that it highlights certain aspects of exalting the Lord Jesus Christ to Whom God said ***“Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased”*** Luke 3:22. See also Matthew 3:17, 17:5, Mark 1:11, 2 Peter 1:17. To worship and please God is to worship the risen Lord Jesus Christ with the same devotion that Mary Magdalene and Mary had insofar as ***“God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name”*** Philippians 2:9.

“And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him” Matthew 28:9.

Hebrews 13:20-21 therefore in reference to worshipping and pleasing God rightly exalts the Lord Jesus Christ with respect to Him as:

- ***“our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep”*** Hebrews 13:20
- ***“Jesus the mediator of the new covenant”*** Hebrews 12:24 and *in turn* Jesus the Shedder of ***“the blood of the everlasting covenant”*** Hebrews 13:20
- ***“Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen”*** Hebrews 13:21.



“...our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep”

Hebrews 13:20

dailyencouragement.wordpress.com/2010/01/04/like-sheep-gone-astray/