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HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

In Your Group Read Hebrews chapter thirteen (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF HEBREWS CHAPTER 13 King James Version

Hebrews 13: [1] Let brotherly love continue. **[2]** Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. **[3]** Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. **[4]** Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. **[5]** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6) **[6]** So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Psalm 118:6-7) **[7]** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. **[8]** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. **[9]** Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. **[10]** We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. **[11]** For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. **[12]** Wherefore

Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. [13] Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. [14] For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. [15] 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. [16] But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. [17] Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. [18] ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. [19] But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. [20] Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, [21] Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. [22] And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. [23] Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. [24] Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. [25] Grace be with you all. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13
VERSES 1-3

Hebrews 13: [1] Let brotherly love continue. [2] Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. [3] Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. (King James Version)

[1] Keep on loving each other as brothers. [2] Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. [3] Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. **(New International Version)**

¹Keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should. ²Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it. ³Remember the Lord's people who are in jail and be concerned for them. Don't forget those who are suffering, but imagine that you are there with them. **(The Contemporary English Version)**

[1] Let love for your fellow believers continue and be a fixed practice with you [never let it fail]. [2] Do not forget or neglect or refuse to extend hospitality to strangers [in the brotherhood – being friendly, cordial, and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously], for through it some have entertained angels

without knowing it. [Gen. 18:1-8; 19:1-3.] **[3]** Remember those who are in prison as if you were their fellow prisoner, and those who are ill-treated, since you also are liable to bodily sufferings. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[1] So you must keep on loving one another as brothers. **[2]** And don't forget to be kind to strangers who are traveling and need a place to stay and something to eat. It's true that by doing this some people have received angels into their homes without knowing it. **[3]** Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them, and remember those who are suffering as if it was your body that's feeling the pain.

(New Testament in Everyday American English)

Additional Information: (Verse 1) – “Let brotherly love continue.” This exhortation applies to all of God's people and must be proclaimed constantly (Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 4:9; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Pet. 1:7). (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol.2, p.714). **(Verse 2)** – “angels.” This advice is not given as the ultimate motivation for hospitality, but to reveal that one never knows how far-reaching an act of kindness might be (cf. Matt. 25:40,45). This is exactly what happened to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 18:1-3), Lot (Gen. 19:1-2), Gideon (Judg. 6:11-24), and Manoah (Judg. 13:6-20). (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p.1876).

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSE 4

Hebrews 13: [4] Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. (King James Version)

⁴ Marriage should be honored by everyone, and husband and wife should keep their marriage pure. God will judge as guilty those who take part in sexual sins. **(New Century Version)**

[4] Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. God draws a firm line against casual and illicit sex. **(The Message)**

[4] Marriage is to be highly regarded in every respect, and husbands and wives must remain loyally faithful to each other. God will definitely judge adulterers and those who are in any way sexually immoral. **(The Last Days Bible)**

[4] Let marriage be held in honor (esteemed worthy, precious, of great price, and especially dear) in all things. And thus let the marriage bed be undefiled (kept undishonored); for God will judge and punish the unchaste [all guilty of sexual vice] and adulterous. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[4] Let everyone think highly of marriage and be sexually faithful to one's own marriage partner, because God will judge those who sin sexually – whether single or married. **(New Evangelical Translation)**

[4] Marriage should be honored by all people. And every marriage should be kept pure between only two people. God will judge guilty those people who do sexual sins and adultery. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSES 5-6

Hebrews 13: [5]] Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Deuteronomy 31:6) [6] So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Psalm 118:6-7) (King James Version)

[5] Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," [6] so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?" (New American Standard Version)

Don't be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, "I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you," we can boldly quote, "God is there, ready to help; I'm fearless no matter what. Who or what can get to me?" (verses 5-6) **(The Message)**

Keep your lives free from the lust for money: be content with what you have. God has said: I will in no wise fail thee, Neither will I in any wise forsake thee. We, therefore, can confidently say: The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me? (verses 5-6) **(Phillips Translation)**

[5] Put greed out of your lives and be content with whatever you have; God himself has said: *I will not fail you or desert you,* [6] and so we can say with confidence: *With the Lord to help me, I fear nothing: what can man do to me?* (verses 5-6) (Jerusalem Bible)

[5] You must also keep your lives free from the love of money, and never feel that you need any more than you have, for God has said, "I will never desert you, and I will never leave you." [6] And this is why we are filled with courage and confidence and say, "The Lord is my Helper. I will not be afraid. What can any human being do to me?" (New Testament in Everyday American English)

[5] Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] [Josh. 1:5.] [6] So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me? [Ps. 27:1; 118:6.] **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[5] Don't be controlled by love for money. Be happy with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you. I will never desert you." Deuteronomy 31:6 [6] So we can say boldly, "The Lord helps me. I will not be afraid. What can people do to me?" Psalm 118:6-7 **(New International Reader's Version)**

[5] Keep your lives free from the love of money. And be satisfied with the things you have. God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never run away from you."

Deuteronomy 31:6 **[6]** So we can feel sure and say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. People can do nothing to me.” Psalm 118:6 **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSE 7

Hebrews 13: [7] Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. (King James Version)

[7] Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. **(New American Standard Version)**

⁷ Remember your leaders who taught God’s message to you. Remember how they lived and died, and copy their faith. **(New Century Version)**

[7] Remember your leaders. They spoke God’s word to you. Think about the results of their way of life. Copy their faith. **(New International Reader’s Version)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSES 8-9

Hebrews 13: [8] Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. [9] Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (King James Version)

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your spiritual strength comes from God’s special favor, not from ceremonial rules about food, which don’t help those who follow them. **(New Living Translation)**

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not let all kinds of strange teachings lead you into the wrong way. Your hearts should be strengthened by God’s grace, not by obeying rules about foods, which do not help those who obey them. **(New Century Version)**

⁸ Jesus Christ never changes! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Don’t be fooled by any kind of strange teachings. It is better to receive strength from God’s undeserved kindness than to depend on certain foods. After all, these foods don’t really help the people who eat them. **(Contemporary English Version)**

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your spiritual strength comes as a gift from God, not from ceremonial rules about eating certain foods—a method which, by the way, hasn’t helped those who have tried it! **(The Living Bible)**

Jesus Christ is always the same, yesterday, today and forever. Do not be carried away by various peculiar teachings. It is good to depend on the grace of God for inward strength, and not on rules of diet – which have not spiritually benefited those who followed them. (verses 8-9) **(Phillips Translation)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13
VERSES 10-14

Hebrews 13: [10] We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. [11] For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. [12] Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. [13] Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. [14] For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. (King James Version)

¹⁰We have an altar from which the priests in the Temple on earth have no right to eat. ¹¹Under the system of Jewish laws, the high priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, but the bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp. ¹²So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates in order to make his people holy by shedding his own blood. ¹³So let us go out to him outside the camp and bear the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our city in heaven, which is yet to come. **(New Living Translation)**

The altar from which God gives us the gift of himself is not for exploitation by insiders who grab and loot. In the old system, the animals are killed and the bodies disposed of outside the camp. The blood is then brought inside to the altar as a sacrifice for sin. It's the same with Jesus. He was crucified outside the city gates – that is where he poured out the sacrificial blood that was brought to God's altar to cleanse his people. So let's go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is- not trying to be privileged insiders, but taking our share in the abuse of Jesus. This "insider world" is not our home. We have our eyes peeled for the City about to come. (verses 10-14) **(The Message)**

¹⁰We have an altar—the cross where Christ was sacrificed—where those who continue to seek salvation by obeying Jewish laws can never be helped. ¹¹Under the system of Jewish laws, the high priest brought the blood of the slain animals into the sanctuary as a sacrifice for sin, and then the bodies of the animals were burned outside the city. ¹²That is why Jesus suffered and died outside the city, where his blood washed our sins away. ¹³So let us go out to him beyond the city walls (that is, outside the interests of this world, being willing to be despised) to suffer with him there, bearing his shame. ¹⁴For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven. **(The Living Bible)**

[10] The priests who serve in the Jewish tent have no right to eat of the sacrifice on our altar. **[11]** The Jewish High Priest brings the blood of the animals into the Most Holy Place to offer it as a sacrifice for sins; but the bodies of the animals are burned outside the camp. **[12]** For this reason Jesus also died outside the city gate, in order to cleanse the people from sin with his own blood. **[13]** Let us, then, go to him outside the camp and share his shame. **[14]** For there is no permanent city for us here on earth; we are looking for the city which is to come. **(Today's English Version)**

[10] We have an altar from which those who worship and serve in the Jewish sanctuary have no right to eat. **[11]** For the blood of animals was brought into the Holy of Holies by the high priest as an atonement for sin, but the bodies of those animals

were burned outside the camp. **[12]** For this reason Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to make his people holy by His own blood. **[13]** Let us then go out to Him, outside the camp, bearing up under abuse for Him. **[14]** For we do not have an enduring city here but we are looking for the one to come. **(The New Translation)**

[10] We too have an altar, but those who still rely on the sacrifices of the Jewish Law cannot be partakers of its benefits. **[11]** The Jewish High Priest carries the blood of the sacrificed animals into the Most Holy Place to offer it as a sacrifice for sins. But the bodies of the animals are burned outside the camp. **[12]** For this reason, Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to purify the people with His own blood. **[13]** So let us always be out there with Him, outside the camp, sharing the abuse and shame He suffered! **[14]** Because we don't have any city here that will last very long, but we earnestly and continually pursue a home in the one that's coming. **(The Last Days Bible)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13 VERSES 15-16

Hebrews 13: [15] 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. [16] But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (King James Version)

¹⁵With Jesus' help, let us continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by proclaiming the glory of his name. ¹⁶Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁵Our sacrifice is to keep offering praise to God in the name of Jesus. ¹⁶But don't forget to help others and to share your possessions with them. This too is like offering a sacrifice that pleases God. **(Contemporary English Version)**

¹⁵With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of his name. ¹⁶Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to him. **(The Living Bible)**

[15] Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. **[16]** And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. **(The New International Version)**

[15] Let us give thanks all the time to God through Jesus Christ. Our gift to Him is to give thanks. Our lips should always give thanks to His name. **[16]** Remember to do good and help each other. Gifts like this please God. **(The New Life Testament)**

[15] Through Jesus, then, let us always bring to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of our lips praising His Name. **[16]** And do not forget to do good and to share; for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **(God's Word to the Nations)**

[15] So for that reason, let us continually offer up to God, thru Jesus, a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of our lips being a thank offering to the name of our God. **[16]** But

on the other hand, don't forget to do good to others, and share what you have with those in need. God is truly pleased with such sacrifices. **(The Last Days Bible)**

[15] Through Him, therefore, let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name. [Lev. 7:12; Isa. 57:19; Hos. 14:2] **[16]** Do not forget or neglect to do kindness and good, to be generous and distribute and contribute to the needy [of the church as embodiment and proof of fellowship], for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[15] So through Jesus we should never stop offering our sacrifice to God. That sacrifice is our praise, coming from lips that speak his name. **[16]** And don't forget to do good for other people. And share with other people. These are the sacrifices that please God. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSE 17

Hebrews 13: [17] Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (King James Version)

[17] Be responsive to your pastoral leaders. Listen to their counsel. They are alert to the condition of your lives and work under the strict supervision of God. Contribute to the joy of their leadership, not its drudgery. Why would you want to make things harder for them? **(The Message)**

[17] Obey your rulers and recognize their authority. They keep constant watch over your welfare, and they have great responsibility. Try to make their work a pleasure and not a painful burden – that would be no advantage to you. **(Phillips Translation)**

[17] Obey your leaders and be under their authority. Those men are responsible for you. So they are always watching to protect your souls. Obey those men so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13

VERSES 18-19

Hebrews 13: [18] ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. [19] But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. (King James Version)

¹⁸Pray for us, for our conscience is clear and we want to keep it that way. ¹⁹I especially need your prayers right now so that I can come back to you sooner. **(The Living Bible)**

[18] Keep on praying for us, for we're sure that we have a good conscience, since we want to live the best possible kind of life at all times. **[19]** And I'm asking you

to pray especially that God will send me back to you soon. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

[18] Pray for us. Our hearts tell us we are right. We want to do the right thing always. [19] Pray for me all the more so that I will be able to come to you soon. **(The New Life Testament)**

[18] Keep praying for us, for we are convinced that we have a good (clear) conscience, that we want to walk uprightly and live a noble life, acting honorably and in complete honesty in all things. [19] And I beg of you [to pray for us] the more earnestly, in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13 VERSES 20-21

Hebrews 13: [20] Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, [21] Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (King James Version)

²⁰⁻²¹ And now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to him. Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting covenant, signed with his blood. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. **(New Living Translation)**

²⁰ God gives peace, and he raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death. Now Jesus is like a Great Shepherd whose blood was used to make God's eternal agreement with his flock. ²¹ I pray that God will make you ready to obey him and that you will always be eager to do right. May Jesus help you do what pleases God. To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever! Amen. **(The Contemporary English Version)**

²⁰⁻²¹ And now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he who became the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting agreement between God and you, signed with his blood, produce in you through the power of Christ all that is pleasing to him. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. **(The Living Bible)**

[20] I pray that the God of peace, who brought our Lord Jesus back from the dead to become the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood that sealed an eternal covenant, [21] may make you ready to do his will in any kind of good action; and turn us all into whatever is acceptable to himself through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[20] God brought our Lord Jesus back from death. Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep. Using Jesus' blood of the eternal agreement, the God of peace [21] will give you whatever good things you need, so that you can do what He wants. Through Jesus Christ, God will do what pleases Him in us. Give God the glory forever and ever. Amen. **(The Simple English Bible)**

[20] Our Lord Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep. The God who gives peace brought him back from the dead. He did it because of the blood of the eternal covenant. May God [21] supply you with everything good. Then you can do what he

wants. May he do in us what is pleasing to him. We can do it only with the help of Jesus Christ. Give him glory for ever and ever. Amen. **(New International Reader's Version)**

[20] May the God of peace – who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep who by His blood made an everlasting “last will and testament” – **[21]** equip you with every good thing that you need, to do what He wants you to do, working in us through Jesus Christ that which pleases Him. To Him be glory forever. Amen. **(God's Word to the Nations)**

HEBREWS CHAPTER 13 VERSES 22-25

Hebrews 13: [22] And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. [23] Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. [24] Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. [25] Grace be with you all. Amen. (King James Version)

²² I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, please listen carefully to what I have said in this brief letter. ²³ I want you to know that our brother Timothy is now out of jail. If he comes here soon, I will bring him with me to see you. ²⁴ Give my greetings to all your leaders and to the other believers there. The Christians from Italy send you their greetings. ²⁵ May God's grace be with you all. **(The New Living Translation)**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Hebrews Chapter 13)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Hebrews Chapter 13.**

1. **Read Hebrews 13:1.** We should keep being concerned about each other as the Lord's followers should. True or False.
2. **Read Hebrews 13:2.** Some people who have extended hospitality to strangers (in the brotherhood) have entertained angels without knowing it. True or False.
3. **Read Hebrews 13:3.** We are to remember the Lord's people who are in jail as if we were fellow prisoners. True or False.
4. **Read Hebrews 13:4.** Marriage should be: a. thought lightly of. b. despised. c. highly regarded.
5. **Read Hebrews 13:4.** God will judge the adulterers and sexually immoral. True or False.
6. **Read Hebrews 13:5.** Let your character or moral disposition be free from the love of money and material things. True or False.
7. **Read Hebrews 13:5.** Choose one of the following: a. we are to be content with what we have. b. we are to be discontent with what we have.
8. **Read Hebrews 13:5.** We can be content with what we have because God has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." True or False.
9. **Read Hebrews 13:8.** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So don't be attracted by strange and new teachings. True or False.
10. **Read Hebrews 13:15.** The sacrifice of doing good and sharing with others is pleasing to God. True or False.
11. **Read Hebrews 13:20-21.** God will produce in us, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to Him. True or False.
12. **Read Hebrews 13:22.** We are to listen carefully to what the letter of Hebrews teaches. True or False.

Instructions for Group Leader: You may want to summarize the chapter (for the group) by reading aloud the following.

Putting the Chapter in Context: Hebrews Chapter 13.

This final chapter is a composite of admonitions which covers a wide range of topics. The author has finished the main thrust of the epistle. In chapter 13 he focuses upon the particular needs and problems of those to whom he is writing. These admonitions cluster around the basic topics of love, leadership, and last words. (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol.2, p.714).

THE WARNINGS IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS! By Don Krow

The truth about saving faith in the book of Hebrews is that it is continuous. It is taught by both Arminianism and Calvinism theology, although they come from different perspectives.

Calvinism, which professes eternal security, teaches that genuine believers may stumble or fall, but they will nevertheless persevere in the Christian faith (1 Cor. 1:8). Those who believe in eternal security believe also that true Christians have experienced a death to sin and will not continue in it (Rom. 6:1-3). Those who would later turn completely away from Christ show that they were never truly born again (1 John 2:19).

Arminian theology teaches that genuine believers can fall away from the Christian faith. They generally believe and teach that those who do fall away lose, or forfeit, their salvation. Their system makes no room for so-called Christians (those by name only) to live in continuous rebellion or deliberate sin with no fruit that proves their faith or repentance.

Both systems of thought agree that a person must be in faith at the end. The examples of faith from Hebrews chapter eleven shows all true believers died in faith (Heb. 11:13-16). Someone may ask, "Where do you stand in this mix of Theology?" My stand is to use only Scriptural words and phrases. If you don't find the word or phrase in Scripture then I would prefer not to use it (even though its concept may be present). Anyway, back to the question, I believe in "eternal redemption" as Hebrews 9:12 so clearly states. Our redemption is eternal, but as Hebrews so clearly suggest, men may turn away. This is the great warning of Hebrews.

This letter of Hebrews will challenge you! I can totally relate to Professor John Niemela (professor of both Greek and Hebrew at Chafer Theological Seminary) when he stated that in 1968 he was launched into a twenty-five year quest to understand a troubling passage in the book of Hebrews. In that time period he changed his opinion at least four times from 1968-1993. He states, "My loyalty has always been to the text, not to a theological system." May we be as honest as Professor Niemela in this respect.

I am convinced that our own doctrines, many times, will not even allow us to see what the Scriptures say. Instead of asking, "**How were the apostles letters, which were read in the early church meetings (Col.4:16; 1 Th.5:27), understood?**" We

have a tendency to read into the passage our own private interpretation or some mystical interpretation that has nothing to do with the passage or its context (the context being that which proceeds or follows any part of a discourse). We should read a passage to draw out what is being said not read into it. We are sternly warned not to add or take away from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19). The word "**heresy**" means to pick or to choose, especially the choosing of a self-willed opinion (See Vine's Lexicon). We are in heresy in its simplest form when we choose ten verses that we want to believe and ignore twenty that we don't want to deal with. We do the same thing when we follow our favorite teacher, CD, book about the Bible, etc., instead of going to the Scriptures **first** as the early Bereans did (Acts 17:11).

"Interpretation has been identified as the art of correctly understanding the thought of a writer or orator and then communicating that thought to others" (Book Alive, p.110). Here are some points to consider when looking at "The Letter to the Hebrews."

1. The personal pronoun "**we**" meaning "**a group that includes the speaker or writer,**" is used repeatedly in this letter (*Hebrews 2:1, 3, 5, 8, 9; 3:6, 14, 19; 4:3, 13, 14, 15, 16; 5:11; 6:3, 9, 11, 18, 19; 7:19; 8:1; 9:5; 10:10; 26, 30, 39; 11:3; 12:1, 9, 10, 25, 28; 13:6, 10, 14, 18*).
2. Almost **every chapter** contains something about our **future eternal hope** (Heb. 12:28).
3. The Apostolic writer is talking about entrance into **Christ's Kingdom** (Heb. 1:8; 12:28).
4. The Apostolic writer is talking about people **neglecting** so great a **Salvation** (Heb. 2:3). The personal pronoun "**we**" is used.
5. The Apostolic writer is talking about Christians entering a "**world to come**" (Heb. 2:5).
6. The Apostolic writer speaks of Christ "**bringing many sons unto glory**" (Heb. 2:10).
7. The Apostolic writer speaks of Christ **freeing men from the fear of death and the devil** (Heb. 2:14-15).
8. The Apostolic writer is speaking about a "**heavenly calling**" (a calling to heaven) (Heb. 3:1).
9. The Apostolic writer is speaking about "**faithfulness**" (Heb. 3:2). And for believers to consider Christ's faithfulness to God **as their example of continuing in the faith**.
10. The Apostolic writer is speaking about us "**holding fast the confidence (faith & trust) and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end**" (Heb. 3:6).

11. The Apostolic writer is speaking to us about “an evil heart of unbelief in **departing from the living God**” (Heb. 3:12).
12. The Apostolic writer is speaking to us about “**being hardened through the deceitfulness (lure & glamour) of sin**” (Heb. 3:12-14) and thus departing from the Living God.
13. The Apostolic writer states that “**we** (which includes the writer or speaker) **are made partakers of Christ** (meaning to have a share or part) **if** (in the event that) **we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end**, i.e., if we steadily maintain until the end the trust with which we began – Phillips Translation. (Heb. 3:14).
14. The Apostolic writer is admonishing us “**not to harden our hearts**” (Heb. 3:15).
15. The Apostolic writer is admonishing us to **receive what the gospel has promised** (Heb. 4:2).
16. The Apostolic writer is speaking of **a future time of experiencing rest** with God (Heb. 4:7-8; & 10-11 Jerusalem Bible).
17. We have a great High Priest who has already gone to heaven, let us **hold firmly to the faith we profess** (Heb. 4:14).
18. The Apostolic writer states, “**Christ became the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey** (listen or hearken to – *present tense*: continue to listen and hearken to, i.e., don’t turn back or away from) **him**” (Heb. 5:9).
19. These believers need **the first principles of the oracles of God taught to them again: Repentance, faith, etc.** (Heb. 5:11-6:3).
20. Some of these believers **don’t** seem to **understand right from wrong** (Heb. 5:13-14).
21. The Apostolic writer warns them about **apostasy** (the turning from the faith) (Heb. 6: 4-8).
22. The Apostolic writer believes they do have fruit and evidence of the faith (things that co-exist or accompany salvation) (Heb. 6:9-10), but admonishes them **to show this same diligence to the very end**, in order to make their hope sure (Heb. 6:9-11). Or as the Apostle Peter says, “to endorse by your conduct the fact that God has called and chosen you.” (2 Peter 1:10, Phillips Translation).
23. The Apostolic writer wants them to **imitate those whose faith and patience inherit the promises** (Heb. 6:12).

24. The Apostolic writer wants them to “**lay hold upon the hope set before them**” (Heb. 6:18), Jesus having already gone ahead and entered (Heb. 6:19-20).
25. The Apostolic writer states that Jesus is able to save them to the uttermost (completely) that **come (present tense – that continue to come & don’t turn back) unto God by him** (Heb. 7:25).
26. The Apostolic writer is speaking about entrance into God’s presence “**the holiest of all**” (Heb. 9:8).
27. The Apostolic writer is speaking about receiving “**the promise of eternal inheritance**” (Heb. 9:15).
28. The Apostolic writer is speaking of Christ putting away our sins by his sacrifice (Heb. 9:26), and eagerly and patiently **waiting for Him to bring us our complete salvation** (Heb. 9:28).
29. The Apostolic writer states that through Christ’s “one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (*present tense – those that are continually being set apart to Him; not those turning back*).
30. The Apostolic writer is admonishing us to “**hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering**” (Heb. 10:23).
31. The Apostolic writer admonishes us **not to sin willfully** because we begin a process of **rejecting Christ and His sacrifice** (Heb. 10:26).
32. If we turn back to Satan, sin and its ways, we become **enemies of God** (Heb. 10:26-27).
33. The Apostolic writer states, “**Surely we are not going to be men who cower back and are lost, but men who maintain their faith for the salvation of their souls!**” (Heb. 10:39 – Phillips Translation).
34. The hero’s of faith (Heb. 11) looked for a heavenly country (Heb. 12:16). **We also are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken** (Heb. 12:28). **Only in company with us will they reach their perfection** (Heb. 11:40).
35. The Apostolic writer admonishes us to **lay aside our sin and weight** and run the race set before us (Heb. 12:1), and consider Jesus and the opposition from sinful men, **lest we grow weary and lose heart** (Heb. 12:3). Jesus said, Follow Me! (Mt. 9:9 – *present tense: follow and continue to follow Me!*).

36. Consider that you have not yet **resisted sin** unto the shedding of your blood (Heb. 12:4).

37. God chastens us so **that we might partake of His holiness** (Heb. 12:10). It brings a **fruit of righteousness** to those exercised by it (Heb. 12:11).

38. **Follow** (*present tense*) peace and holiness, without it you will not see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). (This is not works of the law, this is a understanding of what it means to repent. See Acts 26:18).

39. The Apostolic writer says, "**See to it that no one misses the grace of God**" (Heb. 12:15).

40. Esau, sold out his inheritance (Heb. 12:16), **turn not away from Him that speaketh from heaven** (Heb. 12:25).

41. Let us go to Christ outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but **we are looking for the city that is to come** (Heb. 13:13-14).

42. I personally adhere to the first-century church and what the early believers understood when they first heard the letter of Hebrews read to them. I personally do not adhere to a twentieth-century mystical interpretation that reads into the passage doctrines that the early church did not know or perceive.

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