

THE SAME – #1

Hebrews 13:8

8/15/2021
Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – BEFORE WE GET STARTED – disclaimers

- Not a political rant; not tied to pandemic; not a desire to go back to good old days (**Eccl. 7:10** 'do not say, 'why old days better than this?'), no golden age of God Bless America, no mandated Christian or else (Christian Taliban)
- Couple of weeks back, woke up from a dream with **Hebrews 13:8** on the brain
- Contemplating the rollercoaster of last 18 months – shifting targets
 - Greatest challenges to mental/emotional health – no anchors/tethers
 - E.g. CDC, WHO, politicians, governors, doctors, "follow the science..."
 - Strains & struggles, turmoil & unrest → instability & chaos
- Not (just) about the pandemic – about the American (Western) Way
 - "Our way, our choice, our lives, our truth..." Where am I?
 - Anchors/tethers – values, beliefs, reference points, truth, North Star
- Next few weeks – focus on faithfulness & dependability & "sameness" of Christ

SLIDE 3 – HEBREWS 13:8 – JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME...

- Declaration – front of every Foursquare church – WHY? Anchor point for us
- Reminder – that which we SEE, KNOW, etc... about Christ = SAME infinity
 - Temptation to recreate Christ in our own image – "He's a lot like me"
 - CONTEXT – Incarnation of Christ – 1st century Jewish male;

SLIDE 4 – THE SAME...

- What comes to mind when you hear something is "the SAME?"
 - Positive or negative connotations? Good or bad?
- NEGATIVE? Something that is **old, irrelevant, outdated, antiquated, obsolete, tired, unimportant, unnecessary, insignificant, pointless, etc...**
- POSITIVE? Something that is **consistent, dependable, reliable, unfailing, unchanging, faithful, enduring, stable, secure, steadfast, etc...**

SLIDE 5 – FIND THE NORTH STAR (Christ as our North Star – Heb. 13:8)

- Fixed, unchanging reference point for navigation – how to find your way
 - *Peter Pan – the 2nd star to the right & straight on 'til morning*
- The North Star (Polaris) – *seeming* fixed point in sky – find it, go to horizon = N
- Once you've got the North Star, able to figure out where you are/where you are headed (latitude, direction, etc... <http://naturalnavigator.com>)

SLIDES 6-8 – HEBREWS 13:7-9

- Context – final words in Hebrews – preoccupied w/new teachings & philosophies
- Writers give them anchor points – words, values, practices to base lives on
 - REMEMBER your leaders – they spoke & lived Word; imitate their faith

- Source of their faith/belief/etc? Anchor of **Hebrews 13:8**
 - Strange/new teachings (don't jive w/SAME/consistent)
 - Hearts grow in GRACE (*not strange food focus*) hot new teaching

SLIDE 9 – THE POWER OF “JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME”

- Remember in Colossians 3:17 – *whatever you do, do in the Name*
 - The Same → a fixed point, a filter, opp.to view life's actions, choices, etc.
 - If/since Jesus Christ is 'THE SAME' yesterday, today, forever... then →
- WHO He is & WHAT He does are THE SAME – let's start w/the Foursquare 4
 - Savior – Baptizer w/Holy Spirit – Healer – Soon Coming King

SLIDE 10 – JESUS CHRIST – THE SAVIOR

- **Jn 3:16,17** – For God so loved that He gave Son; whoever believes never die but have everlasting life; God didn't send Son to condemn; to save thru Him
- **Acts 2:21; 4:12** – everyone calls on Name of Lord will be saved; + salvation found in no one else but Jesus
- **John 1:12** – to all who received Him & believed in His Name, children of God
- **Matt 1:21** – Jesus will save His people from sins
- **1Tim 1:15** – Christ came to save sinners...
- **Romans 10:9,10** – confess & believe – Jesus is Lord, raised from dead = saved

SLIDE 11 – JESUS CHRIST CAME TO – SEEK & SAVE

- Ministry of reconciliation = introducing people to Christ – made right w/God, through Jesus Christ
 - PURPOSE – Healing, wholeness, deliverance, freedom, new life

SLIDE 12 – LUKE 19:10

SLIDE 13 – JESUS CHRIST CAME TO – SEEK & SAVE

- **Luke 19:10** – story of Zaccheus – the Son of Man came to seek & save the lost
 - Salvation has come to this house today – son of Abraham also ☺

SLIDE 14 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

SLIDE 15 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*

SLIDE 16 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE