

- **Hebrews 12:18-29 - The Greater Covenant**
 - Contrast between Old Covenant (Mt. Sinai) and New Covenant (Mt. Zion)
 - The warning against refusing God who speaks (Heb. 12:25-29)
 - The word "refuse" carries the idea of rejecting or declining what God says
 - Parallel to the parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14)
 - Everything temporal will be shaken and renovated
 - Health, wealth, neighborhoods, possessions all fade
 - The unseen realities of God's kingdom are eternal
 - We receive an unshakable kingdom (v. 28)
 - Response is thankfulness and reverence
 - We serve God acceptably with godly fear
 - Our God is a consuming fire (v. 29)
 - Practical challenge: identify shakable vs. unshakable things in your life
 - Shakable: job, investments, health, savings, family stability
 - Unshakable: God's promises, eternal life, forgiveness, Holy Spirit, resurrection
 - Summary contrast of Sinai and Zion
 - Sinai: boundaries, distance, fear, "Do not touch"
 - Zion: welcome, access, fellowship, celebration through Jesus Christ
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- **Overview of Hebrews**
 - Chapters 1-6: The superior person of Jesus Christ
 - Christ superior to Moses, angels, prophets, and Aaron
 - Chapters 7-10: The superior priesthood of Christ
 - Jesus as our High Priest, better than earthly priests
 - Chapters 11-13: The greater principle of faith
 - Chapter 11: Examples of faith
 - Chapter 12: Endurance of faith
 - Chapter 13: Evidence of faith
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- **Hebrews 13 - The Evidence of Faith**
 - Structure of chapter 13 exhortations
 - v. 1 - Relationship to other believers
 - v. 2 - Relationship to strangers
 - v. 3 - Relationship to prisoners
 - v. 4 - Relationship to spouse
 - vv. 5-6 - Relationship to money
 - v. 7 - Relationship to leaders
 - vv. 8-14 - Relationship to Christ
 - vv. 15-17 - Relationship to God

- vv. 18-21 - Prayer
 - vv. 22-25 - All the saints
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- **Verse 1 - Brotherly Love (Philadelphia)**

- One word in Greek meaning close, intimate love among believers
 - Also used in 1 Thessalonians 4:9
 - Practical self-examination: how does our church rate on brotherly love?
 - Study on church friendliness: 18 churches, none scored above 100 points
 - Conclusion: people will not return where no one cares they are present
 - Practical expressions of brotherly love
 - Greeting others, learning names
 - Sitting with those alone
 - Praying with others, checking on the sick
 - Bearing with difficult people patiently
 - Love is the mark of a true believer
 - John 13:35 - disciples known by love for one another
 - 1 John 4:20-21 - cannot love God while hating a brother
 - Challenge: greet someone you know, meet someone you do not know, encourage someone struggling
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- **Verse 2 - Hospitality Toward Strangers**

- In Greek “entertaining strangers” literally means “to love strangers”
 - Hebrew believers had begun neglecting this practice
 - Historical context: no hotels or restaurants in the ancient Middle East
 - Example of Lot in Genesis 19
 - Entertained two angels without knowing they were angels
 - His hospitality reflected awareness of Sodom's dangers
 - Some have unknowingly entertained angels through hospitality
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- **Verse 3 - Remembering the Prisoners**

- Remember believers imprisoned for their faith
- Remember them as if chained with them - be compassionate
- Reference to Hebrews 10:34 - earlier compassion shown to those in chains
- Broader application today
 - The homebound, hospitalized, grieving, addicted, depressed, lonely
 - Those imprisoned by circumstances beyond their control

- Paul's teaching: rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep
 - Corinthians: if one member suffers, all suffer with it
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- **Verse 4 - Honoring Marriage**

- Historical context: low view of marriage, emphasis on celibacy, immoral society
 - Some treated marriage as convention rather than conviction
 - Marriage is described as "precious, valuable, of high status"
 - Self-examination for the married
 - Am I treating my marriage as precious?
 - Am I protecting emotional and physical purity?
 - Am I speaking to my spouse with honor?
 - Am I investing in my marriage or merely coexisting?
 - For the single: honor marriage by respecting God's design and pursuing purity
 - Core value of verses 1-4: commitment
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- **Verses 5-6 - Contentment with Material Things**

- Core value of verses 5-7: contentment
 - Warning against covetousness; be content with what you have
 - God's promise: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (from Joshua 1:5)
 - Confident response: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear"
 - Paul's example of contentment (Philippians 4:11-12)
 - Paul's instruction to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:7-8)
 - The love of money as a root of all kinds of evil
 - Doubt drives discontentment - distrust in God's provision
 - God's promise of provision (Philippians 4:19)
 - Money and possessions divert attention from Christ and reveal distrust
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- **Verse 7 - Contentment with God-Appointed Leadership**

- Remember and follow those who have spoken the Word of God
- Consider the outcome of their conduct
- God appoints leaders in both government and the church
 - Daniel 2:20-22 - God removes and raises up kings
 - Romans 13:1 - all authority is appointed by God
- Application regarding civil government
 - Christians have a responsibility to vote
 - Vote for those who stand for godly morals
- God also raises up leaders in the church

- Ephesians 4 - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
 - Purpose: equipping the saints and edifying the body
 - Proper response to spiritual leadership
 - Follow their faith, not their personality or popularity
 - Follow those whose example leads you to Christ
 - Pray for spiritual leaders
 - Listen to what is taught
 - Avoid a critical or rebellious spirit
 - Recognize the heavy spiritual responsibility leaders carry
 - Maturity and humility allow us to submit to leaders
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- **Gospel Foundation for All the Exhortations**

- These are not random moral duties - they flow from the gospel
- Because Jesus welcomed us, we welcome strangers
- Because Jesus loved us as brothers and sisters, we love the family of God
- Because Jesus remembered us in our bondage, we remember those in prison
- Because Jesus is faithful to His bride, we honor marriage
- Because Jesus will never leave us, we can be content
- Because Jesus shepherds us, we receive godly leadership with humility