

# Hebrews 13 – 21 July 2024

## “Prompted Into Grace”

### Introduction

\*Chap 11-13 finishes the book of Hebrews with our response to receiving the New Covenant in Jesus

\*Chap 11 was the famous Hall of Faith chapter

\*This showed ‘If we have true Biblical faith, the result is having a daily life of godly action’

\*Chap 12 was a challenge of ‘Are we fixing our lives on victory’ or just half-hearted efforts

\*Chap 13 is Paul’s final exhortation or prompting for them to live a life by God’s grace not human effort

\*Have you let go of “the rules” and learned to walk daily with the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

**Today, we’ll see 3 questions that will determine if you’ve been prompted into a life of grace**

# #1 – Do you live in contentment? (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Brotherly love is not just a quick action, but a constant attitude
  - a. Are we carrying the attitude that we're all in this together?
  - b. We all question how we're to pay the bills
  - c. We all question if the guy next door is nice (he's asking the same thing about you)
2. Notice the application given of brotherly love is toward those we don't know or in trouble
  - a. It's easy to love those that love you back
  - b. How are you towards those that you may get no return on your love?
3. Be nice to strangers – why?
  - a. B/c they may just be on God's team – like the angels going to Sodom that Abraham met
  - b. Get rid of the presupposition that strangers are bad or unhelpable
  - c. BTW, isn't it fun to think we may have run into an angel (like a person) at some point

4. Another use of brotherly love is to remember those in unmerited trouble (ie. Tim from vs 23)
  - a. Read Matt 7:12 - To help, not defraud others
  - b. Great reward for helping those in trouble – maybe even gaining a lifetime friend

### Read Vs 4

1. This is meant to be a comparison
  - a. You're either content in marriage
  - b. Or you're craving is unsatisfiable
2. Marriage is a picture of Christ & His church
  - a. Are you satisfied w/ a life in Christ?
  - b. He's satisfied with you saying "I'll never leave you nor forsake you"

### Read Vs 5-6

1. Having the presence & blessing of God in your life is worth more the riches – believest thou this?
  - a. I know some that hold back from providing the Lord's tithe b/c "they need money"
  - b. They don't know having God's blessing is of much greater value than a little extra money

2. We stop w/ contention & striving when we realize the great value of having Christ as our guide

## #2 – Are you imitating Jesus & godly leaders? (Vs 7-17)

Read Vs 7

1. Pastors & teachers should have a life of faith that's resulting in beneficial & admirable change
  - a. Just as churches need godly leaders, it also needs godly followers
  - b. Read I Cor 11:1 – The Lord is calling you to follow the right examples
2. Who are you interested in imitating? Pop culture icons or Christian culture icons
  - a. Look beyond wealth, to those whose life has stable relationships, loving faithful friendships & eternal life in Christ!

Read Vs 8

1. Jesus is our standard-bearer, the constant
  - a. This is the standard we aim for, consistency
  - b. Don't expect something completely 'new'

2. Doesn't that bring peace, that Jesus will never spring a major surprise or change on us!

Read Vs 9

1. Let our hearts & minds be daily permeated w/ the fabric of living, not by works, but by God's grace
2. Now Paul goes on to say how much better we have it living in grace than living by works

Read Vs 10-12

1. Our worship with God is more than earthly, but it's earthly examples that represent spiritual trues
2. The bull for the Sin Offering in the OT Law was brought to Temple for its blood to be spilled
  - a. Then it was taken outside the city for burning
  - b. Calvary's hill, where Jesus was crucified was outside the city walls

Read Vs 13-14

1. Therefore, this is the example we follow
  - a. We allow our flesh to be destroyed

- b. And there will be a certain contempt this draws from the world toward us
2. But we do it b/c of vs 14, we don't live for this world but for the permanent one to come

### Read Vs 15-16

1. Do we live to grumble or have gratitude?
2. Do we sacrifice for others or maximize for self
  - a. Read Gal 6:9-10

### Read Vs 17

1. The Lord is calling for cooperation w/ following the Pastor's lead and direction
2. Just like in marriage have responsibilities on only one side is gross, but there are on both sides
  - a. Read Jam 3:1 – Pastors & leaders have a great task to give only truthful guidance
  - b. The Church has a great task in following the vision & mission the pastor is setting forth
  - c. When both are functioning, it's beautiful!

### #3 – Are you enjoying real fellowship? (Vs 18-25)

Read Vs 18-19

1. Paul believes he is living a godly honest life, but even above that he prays to have their fellowship in person again
2. See, we can have great fellowship b/c we're living a clean life, we can enjoy w/o dealing w/ sin

Read Vs 20-21

1. If God has the power to raise Jesus from the dead, he has the power to change us & equip us for the life that He's called us to
2. He wants to mold us to do His good will
  - a. He's changing every part of us from *rebel* to *reborn* – from *contention* to *contentment*
3. The mission of Christ is to bring us peace with God & each other, one heart at a time
  - a. Read Rom 5:1 – Lord brought us this rest
  - b. Read Eph 2:13-15 – Peace between Jew & Gentile

## Read Vs 22-25

1. This is a reminder of why Paul wrote this letter, to prod them along into godliness
2. Prod them away from the Law of works and into a life of freedom living by the grace of God

## Conclusion

So are you filled w/ the Spirit? Have you been prompted into a life lived by grace and love? Here's how you can know.

- 1. Do you live in contentment?**
  - a. Grace satisfies the heart and brings rest
- 2. Are you imitating Jesus & the godly leaders He's put in your life?**
  - a. Do you have a desire to become like your great King Jesus?
- 3. Are you enjoying real fellowship?**
  - a. When we grow in belief, we change behaviors
  - b. When we change behaviors, we gain belonging – this is true fellowship!