

The Promise: Christ in Community Marked by Godly Leadership
Hebrews 13:7-14
Sunday, May 27, 2012

INTRODUCTION

A. Acceptable Worship is Following Godly Leadership (vv.7-14)

1. Pattern of Following (**v.7**)

- a) **Charles Spurgeon**, "...If they are to remember and to consider their earthly leaders, much more are they to recollect that great Leader, the Lord Jesus, and all those matchless truths which fell from his blessed lips."
- b) Remember (make mention, be mindful of)
- c) Consider (look and take note)
- d) Imitate (mimic)
- e) Leaders keep in mind 3 things...
 - (1) This is your pattern for leading (this is discipleship at its CORE)
 - (2) You need to be led
 - (3) You will face opposition (**vv.7 & 17** indicate this possibility) -- some with false teaching and others with false practice (or both)
 - (4) Godly leadership leads others to follow Christ and seek His city!!!

2. Person of Following...Jesus Christ (**v.8**)

- a) Sameness
 - (1) **John Calvin**, "This then is a remarkable passage, from which we learn that there is no other way of being true, wise than by fixing all our thoughts on Christ alone."

- (2) In nature & work
 - (a) He is Divine
 - (b) He is eternally Priest
 - (c) He is eternally Sacrifice
 - (d) His commission, then, remains the same
 - (3) This is a shepherding statement
 - (a) **Chp.11** -- Examples of faithfulness in the OT
 - (b) **Chp.12** -- Example of Christ
 - (c) **Chp.13** -- Example of present leaders to point them to Christ
 - b) Head of the church
 - (1) He is the head of the church
 - (2) The church is made up of saved sinners that we are to imitate on the way to Christlikeness
 - (3) **Spurgeon**, "There is an itching, nowadays, after originality, striking out a path for yourself. When sheep do that, they are bad sheep. Sheep follow the shepherd; and, in a measure, they follow one another when they are all together following the shepherd."
 - c) Sound Christology (the cornerstone to the church and teaching in the church)
 - (1) **Ephesians 2:19-22**
 - (2) **Colossians 1:15-18**
3. Purpose of Following (**vv.9-14**)
- a) To Know the Gospel
 - (1) Guarding against falsehood
 - (2) Strengthened by grace
 - (a) Heart Strengthened

- i) Thoughts
- ii) Feelings
- iii) This is our view on treasuring.
- iv) So, it is the gospel of grace that gives us strength to think and feel rightly.
- (b) Insufficient sacrifices
 - i) Animal sacrifices were performed outside the camp because it was a place unclean. The priest had to be make clean to do so.
 - ii) However, these sacrifices were never meant to be the full and final means of making God's people redeemed.
 - iii) **Hebrews 10:3-4**
- (c) Singularly sufficient sacrifice...Christ
 - i) So, Christ himself became unclean in order to cleanse us
 - ii) As with the sacrifices, Golgotha was just outside the city -- executions in the city walls would have made the people city of Jerusalem unclean
- (d) Participation in Christ
 - i) For the Jewish believer, this meant a total and complete break with Judaism
 - ii) This means full association with Christ, even at the price of being reviled or martyred
- (3) Practicing the gospel
 - (a) Be solely satisfied in Christ
 - (b) Be a stranger to this world
- (c) Be seeking the unshakable kingdom (now and not yet)
- b) To Know the Gospel...IS to Know Christ
 - (1) The same sovereign redeemer
 - (2) The same supreme priest
 - (3) The same sufficient sacrifice
 - (4) The same ruler of heaven

B. Application & Implications

1. Actively follow godly leaders
2. Do not assume you know the gospel of grace
 - a) Sit under the preaching of the Word...
 - b) Acknowledge that you are prone to wonder...
 - c) Admit that you get weak...
 - d) Reject the notion the gospel of grace is lived in isolation & in safety -- "**let US go...**"
3. FOLLOW CHRIST NO MATTER WHAT
 - a) No matter the false teaching around you, the persecution or the rejection because of being an imitator of Christ
 - b) With thankfulness for blessings, invest in the city that is sought, not building earthly kingdoms