

Hebrews Class 13: Conclusion
Truro Sunday School, April 6, 2025

We reach the end of our study in Hebrews with this class.

Last week, we considered Chapter 12:1: The Great Cloud of Witnesses.

Chapter 12 applies the lessons to be learned by the examples of all the faithful down through time to our lives today and exhorts us to follow their example by keeping and living our trust in Christ.

12:2 holds up Jesus for us to look at to find salvation, reminding us that He endured through the painful experience of the Cross because He looked beyond it to what His sacrifice was going to accomplish and the rewards of His obedience: Joy and Authority.

12:3 urges us to “Consider Him” and the opposition He experienced while here on earth to be encouraged in our struggles to remain faithful.

12:5-13 discusses how the Lord will use our pain and suffering to discipline us- to drive out of us wrong or sinful desires or habits, to help prepare us for a life in Heaven.

12:14-17 warns us to avoid a root of bitterness and to avoid the example of Esau who treated his gifts as trivial and lost them as a result.

12:18-29 gives a final contrast between the old and new covenants and shows again the superiority of the new over the old. A kingdom that cannot be shaken.

Chapter 13 wraps the letter up with a number of brief exhortations to live the Christian life in ways that honor the Lord and reflect His presence in our lives.

The key to this is Hebrews 13:14- For here (on earth) we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (namely the new Jerusalem- see Revelation 21.) Our focus must be on what Christ will bring us when He comes again, looking up and beyond the trials and tribulations of life in this broken world to the life of the world to come in God’s presence.

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The letter concludes with a beautiful benediction we still use today and then a few very brief updates from people they know.

Hebrews 13:22: I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

To sum up the main message of the letter: Hold on to your faith. Christ is superior to every other religious system out there. Cut away the weeds and vines that would grow up to choke out your faith. Keep looking to Jesus who sits enthroned in Heaven. Run the race of faith toward Him and find salvation, remembering that the Great Cloud of the Faithful are cheering you on every step of the way.