

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE ELDERSHIP HEBREWS 13:7FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. The last chapter of Hebrews centers around this idea of love.
2. **HEBREWS 13.10:** “*We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.*”
3. There are among this exclusive group men who serve as “*those who rule over you*” (Heb. 13.7,17,24).

I. ELDERS IN THE BIBLE

- A. The church is described in two distinct ways.
 1. There is the universal church consisting of all Christians everywhere who have obeyed the gospel. (Matt. 16.18)
 2. There are churches made up of a collection of those who have obeyed the gospel locally. (Phil. 1.1)
 3. Elders serve the needs of the church locally. (1 Pet. 5.1)
- B. Consider the different ways that elders are described.
 1. AGE: The word “elder” is translated from the Greek word “presbyteros” meaning “older.” (1 Pet. 5.1)
 2. AUTHORITY: The word “overseer” is translated from the Greek word “episkopos.” To watch over. (Acts 20.28)
 3. ACCOUNTABILITY: The word “steward” is translated from the Greek word “oikonomos” (Titus 1.7)
 4. AFFECTION: The word “shepherd” is translated from the Greek word “poimen.” (Acts 20.28)

II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR ELDERS

- A. We are to remember our elders.
 1. **HEBREWS 13.7:** “*Remember those who rule over you*”
 2. The idea to remember is to be mindful of them by putting ourselves in their shoes. (cf. Heb. 13.2)
- B. We are to obey our elders.
 1. **HEBREWS 13.17:** “*Obey those who rule over you*”
 2. Elders only have the authority to enforce the laws of God. (1 John 2.3; John 14.15; 1 Pet. 1.22).
 3. Why are we to obey them? (Heb. 13.17)
- C. We are to greet our elders. (Heb. 13.24)

CONCLUSION: The book concludes in Hebrews 13.22-25.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH”

In as well known and often quoted statement, Jesus tells Peter and the rest of His disciples, “*On this rock, I will build My church*” (Matt. 16.18). In the context of this statement, we can learn a great deal about the church that Jesus promised to build.

First, we learn about the foundation of the church. Jesus said that His church would be built, “*upon this rock.*” Actually, this was a statement made in response to Peter’s confession. If you back up to verse 16, Peter said to Jesus, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (John 16.16). The foundation on which Jesus would build His church was on His deity. This is a church built on the foundation that Jesus is the Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 3.11).

Second, we learn about the possession of the church. Jesus said that it was “*My church.*” It is not a church which was built by man. Nor does it bear the name of man as if owned by him. It is the church which belongs to Christ. There are a lot of churches that have come into existence. I want to belong to he one who belongs to Christ.

Third, we learn about the promise of the church. When Jesus makes a promise, He will always keep it. To reassure us of the certainly of His promise, He goes on to say that “*the gates of hades shall not prevail against it*” (Matt. 16.18). The idea is that though Jesus would die, that would not prevent Him from building His church.

Are you a member of the Lord’s church? (Acts 2.47)

CLP

WHO IS GOD?

1 JOHN 1:5

INTRODUCTION:

1. No one has seen invisible God at any time making it impossible to know what God looks like. (John 1.18; 1 Tim. 1.17; Heb. 11.27)
2. When we read the Bible, we can know who God is and act accordingly.

I. INACCURATE VIEWS OF GOD

- A. Examples in the Old Testament.
 1. Adam thought he could hide from God. (Gen. 3.8)
 2. King Ahab thought he could fool God by disguising himself while in battle. (1 Kings 21.18,19; 22.34-38)
 3. Jonah thought he could avoid his responsibilities by running away from God. (Jonah 1.1-3,17)
- B. Examples in the New Testament.
 1. Roman Gentiles tried to change God into someone who was more tolerant. (Rom. 1.22-25)
 2. Herod tried to equate himself to God. (Acts 12.23)
 3. The idolatrous Athenians viewed God as one among many gods. (Acts 17.22,23; cf. Isa. 45.5)

II. AN ACCURATE VIEW OF GOD

- A. God is light. (1 John 1.5)
 1. Contextually, individuals were claiming to have fellowship with God while in darkness. (1 John 1.6)
 2. If God is light, we are to “walk as children of light” But how do we live as children of light? (Eph. 5.8)
 3. Are you a good person? Righteous? Truthful? Children of light produce the fruit of the Spirit. (Eph. 5.9)
- B. God is love. (1 John 4.7,8)
 1. **1 JOHN 4.8:** “*love is of God...God is love*” To have an accurate view of God, we must understand love.
 2. **1 JOHN 3.16:** “*By this we know love...*” Love sacrifices to help someone in need.
 3. God loved the world and showed that love by sacrificing to help us in our need. (John 3.16)

CONCLUSION: We can know who God is, but we must know God to have the hope of heaven. (2 Thess. 1.8)

“AM I MY BROTHER’S KEEPER?”

The first sibling rivalry that we can read about in the Bible was between Cain and Abel. Cain was jealous because God rejected his sacrifice while accepting the sacrifice offered by Abel. This sibling rivalry was so contentious that “*Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him*” (Gen. 4.8). God asked about Abel, and Cain responded with a question: “*Am I my brother’s keeper*” (Gen. 4.9)? The word translated as “keeper” carries the idea of watching over with the intention of protecting. When God asked about Abel, Cain said that he was not the one who was responsible for watching over and protecting his brother.

Christians are the family of God (Eph. 3.15). We are brethren whose Father is God (Gal. 2.26). How does the Bible describe this relationship? Are we to be looking out for our brethren? Consider three passages from the book of 1 John.

1 JOHN 3.10-12: In this passages, the children of God are identified as those who love each other (v. 10). Even from the very beginning, we have been told to “*love one another*” (v. 11). The way we treat one another is put in direct contrast to the way Cain treated Abel (v. 12). The word “love” is translated from the Greek word “agape.” This is the word that means to always want what is best for the person who is loved. Looking out for my brethren is implied in the word “love.” If I am concerned for their best interests, then I am going to be watching out for them. To love someone is to protect them.

1 JOHN 3.17: This is a passage that refers to one who sees his brother in need. If I have this world’s goods and I see a brother in need, then I am going to do what I can to help. But I am not going to know that if I am not involved in his life. I am looking out for my brother when I am willing to sacrifice to provide for the necessities that might be lacking in his life.

1 JOHN 5.16: In this passage, a brother is caught up in sin. If I am not acting as my brother’s keeper, I may ignore that there is a problem in his life. If I am uninterested in his spiritual welfare, I am pretend that everything is okay. But if I am involved in his life and watching out for him, and I see him overcome in trespasses, then I will do step up to “*restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness*” (Gal. 6.1).

Are you interested and wanting what is best for your brethren?
Are you your brother’s keeper?