

# Hebrews

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Hebrews 13:7-8 – Words of Wisdom - Part 1

April 25, 2010

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## I. Words of Wisdom

A. **Hebrews 13:7-14** . . . Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. [8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. [9] Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. [10] We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. [11] For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. [12] Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. [13] So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. [14] For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

## B. Prayer

## II. Words of Wisdom – Learn from those who went before. Trust Jesus!

A. **Hebrews 13:7** . . . Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

1. For starters, we can remember the saints spoken of in Hebrews 11. After considering their faith, life, and death, look at the disciples and the others who surrounded Jesus during his three years of ministry. Then there is Stephen, James – who was the brother of Jesus and the bishop of Jerusalem, and James the brother of John (Acts 12:2). Consider how they manifested great conviction, strength, and endurance of faith by their holy walk, which they maintained to the end of their lives – even to martyrdom.
2. We have read stories to the children of Christian's past – and there are many wonderful biographies of Christians who have lived a life worth considering. God is telling us here to do just that – consider they way they lived and how they honored God, and imitate their life of faith.
3. Before moving on to verse 8, I want to point out that the truth in verse 7 is connected to the warning in verse 9 by the promise in verse 8. To model our lives after serious minded, solid Christians

from the past, or even current Christians, requires some serious faith (vs 7). To keep from being led astray by any false or strange teaching requires some serious knowledge of God, His ways, and His Word. And where do we Christians get this depth of faith and knowledge? **From Jesus Christ!** Therefore we read in vs. 8:

**B. Hebrews 13:8 . . . Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

1. The same Jesus Christ who supported the O.T. saints, apostles, church elders, missionaries, pastors, and every other Christian living a life of faith – especially those who suffered martyrdom for their faith in Christ and service to Christ – this same Jesus Christ is ours today and throughout eternity.
  - a. In other words, God is saying to us that just as Jesus protected the believers of yesterday, provided for them, helped them, strengthened them, and comforted them, so He will do the same for us today and forever – **if**, like them, we walk by "faith" in Him.
  - b. Therefore, to encourage us forward in our walk of faith, I want us to consider this Jesus, who is the same yesterday in His dealings with the O.T. saints, and today in His dealings with us.
2. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is God in human form. He is eternal – with no beginning and no end. And yet he came to earth, was bound by time, and showed us God through his humanity. In addition, he created with God, and he rules with God.
  - a. **John 1:1-3 . . .** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
  - b. **Genesis 1:26-27 . . .** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- c. **John 1:18** . . . No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.
  - d. **John 14:8-10** . . . Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." [9] Jesus said\* to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.
  - e. **Colossians 1:15-17** . . . He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. [16] For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. [17] He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
  - f. **Hebrews 1:3-4** . . . And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, [4] having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.
3. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is the way to the Father and to eternal life with the Father.
- a. **John 14:6** . . . "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
  - b. **John 10:9** . . . "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."
  - c. **John 11:25-26** . . . "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"
4. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is our ever-present Pillar of Cloud by day and Pillar of Fire by night.
- a. **Matthew 28:20b** . . . and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

- b. **John 14:16-20** . . . "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; [17] that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. [18] "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. [20] "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
  - c. **Hebrews 13:5b** . . . I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"
- 5. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is the light that brings light to the darkness and illuminates our path and brings to light the truth of God's Word.
  - a. **Psalms 27:1** . . . The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?
  - b. **Micah 7:7-8** . . . But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. [8] Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me.
  - c. **John 1:4-9** . . . In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. [5] The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. [6] There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. [8] He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. [9] There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.
  - d. **John 8:12** . . . Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."
  - e. **Colossians 1:13-14** . . . For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
  - f. **Ephesians 5:6-9** . . . Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. [7] Therefore do not be partakers with

them; [8] for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [9] (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).

- g. **Isaiah 60:19-20** . . . "No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory. [20] "Your sun will no longer set, nor will your moon wane; for you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, and the days of your mourning will be over.

6. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is the manna from heaven and the rock from which life-giving water flows.

- a. **John 6:31-35** . . . Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.' " [32] Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. [33] "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." [34] Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." [35] Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, (and he who believes in Me will never thirst).
- b. **John 4:10-14** . . . Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." [11] She said\* to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? [12] "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" [13] Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; [14] but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."
- c. **John 7:37-39** . . . Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. [38] "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " [39] But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom

those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

7. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is the power within us enabling us to live the Christian life just as He enabled Israel to defeat and drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land (walled cities, standing armies, giants).
  - a. **Philippians 4:13** . . . I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
  - b. **Galatians 2:20** . . . "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
  - c. **John 15:5** . . . "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
  - d. **I Corinthians 10:13** . . . No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
  - e. **I Timothy 1:12-13** . . . I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, [13] even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief.
8. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is our shepherd
  - a. **Isaiah 40:9b-11** . . . Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" [10] Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. [11] Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.
  - b. **Isaiah 63:8-9** . . . For He said, "Surely, they are My people, Sons who will not deal falsely." So He became their Savior. [9] In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.

- c. **John 10:11, 14-15 . . .** [11] "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. [14] "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, [15] even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- 9. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is our High Priest – He understands our weaknesses. He sympathizes with our struggles against temptation and sin. He is merciful and compassionate. He calls us to be perfect as His Father is perfect, yet he works with us and helps us, day-by-day, as we press on toward perfection. He supplies strength when we are weak, hope when we are discouraged, and comfort when we are broken hearted. He works all things out for our good as we live according to his will. When Satan accuses us before God, he intercedes on our behalf – defending us from the wrath of God. He forgives our sin and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. And as our High Priest, He is, above all else, the embodiment of compassionate, merciful, patient, and even long-suffering love.
- 10. **CONSIDER:** Jesus is our all in all – His love is boundless, his faithfulness is forever, his grace is inexhaustible, his wisdom is immeasurable, his power is limitless, and his mercy is without end. He heals the sick, he defends the weak, he serves the downtrodden, he helps the unfortunate, he attends to the widows and orphans, and he cares for the aged. He is the pathway to peace and the gateway to glory. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. Though he asks us to die to self, the life he gives in exchange is worth far more than the one we give up. Jesus is our all in all.

### III. Conclusion

- A. This Jesus, who reconciled the saints of old to God, who made it possible for them to live like saints of God, and who brought them safely home to the presence of God, is the same Jesus we know and love and serve and get help from today.