

12th Sunday after Pentecost, 11th Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 8/27 at 4:00 | Sunday, 8/28 at 9:00



Text: Hebrews 13:1-17 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On **what basis** do YOU make your decisions: ♦feelings, ♦knowledge, ♦experience, ♦friends? Let us remember: ***Our BEST basis is God's word!***

Today, in the ***last chapter of Hebrews***, we come to important instructions for Christians. Since our response can be connected to our eternal location, *let us hear and heed!*

1. **Love Other Believers:** ¹ **Let love of the brethren continue.** // Three examples of loving other Christians, that is, *taking sacrificial action to help in time of need:*
 - a. **Strangers:** ² **Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.** // Sometimes Christians must travel *but cannot afford a hotel*. To welcome a *Christian, who is a stranger to you*, is an act of love; to encourage such love, angels are mentioned – *when Abraham unknowingly entertained angels (Gen. 18)*.

- b. Prisoners: ³ **Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.** // Today, Christians ▶are imprisoned and ▶being mistreated for the sake of the gospel. Each year, *thousands are put to death!* So, let us **think** and **care**; then let us love them by ▶praying for them and ▶helping them – as we can!
- c. Spouses: ⁴ **Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.** // What defiles a marriage? Fornication – *sinful sex before marriage*, and adultery – *sinful sex within marriage*. Christians are called to love their spouses *by keeping all sexual relations within marriage*. To encourage that, we have the reminder of God’s judgment!
2. **Do Not Love Money**: ⁵ **Make sure that your character is free from the love of money,** // Here are three ways:
- a. **being content with what you have;** // God has given us ▶what we need and ▶what is best.
- b. **...He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”** // The Lord is with us always to provide ▶what we need ▶when we need it.
- c. ⁶ **so that we confidently say, “THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?”** // A person can take our possessions, *even our lives*, but he cannot remove us from ▶God’s love in Christ and ▶our eternal blessings.
3. **Imitate the Faithful Ones**: ⁷ **Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.** // Think

about those listed in [Hebrews chapter 11](#), **or** pastors and mature laypeople who ♦helped you understand the Bible and ♦pointed you to Christ alone for eternal life – who ♦died trusting in Jesus and ♦went to heaven. *They are the ones to imitate!* They trusted in ⁸ **Jesus Christ [who] is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

4. **Focus on the Truth:**

- a. Many Things are False: ⁹ **Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings** [*God's truth NEVER varies and is not strange but familiar*]; **for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace** [*by God's love in Christ*], **not by foods** [*avoiding what the OT prohibited*], **through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.** // People have various ideas about what saves: ♦Some are drawn to the **latest** ideas, ♦some to the **strangest** ideas, and ♦others to **keeping certain rules**. Such things can make sense to such people, *but they are being deceived:* ^{NAS} **Gal. 5:4** “You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.”
- b. Jesus Is the Truth: 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.** // Most sacrifices were eaten, so which ones could not be eaten? Those were the sacrifices offered on the Day of Atonement ([Lev. 16](#)), *which pointed ahead to Jesus' coming and finished work to remove the sins*

of the world! This section does not include the Lord's Supper *but focuses on the benefits that are available to all by grace through faith in Jesus.* As the animals were burned outside the camp, so Jesus was crucified outside the city gate. *Jesus was literally cursed by God!*
Gal. 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us..."

5. **Follow Jesus – No Matter What:** 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.*** // Some important ways to follow Jesus:
- Keep Praising and Thanking:** ¹⁵ **Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.** // For forgiveness, eternal life, peace, and much more!
 - Keep Doing Good and Sharing:** ¹⁶ **And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.** // Don't stop, keep going – *no matter what!*
 - Keep Cooperating with Your Spiritual Leaders:** ¹⁷ **Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.** // Since I must give an account to God for how I cared for your souls, *I'm trying to give you all the best from God's word!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, **keep** showing us the truth, **keep** forgiving us, and **keep** us **▶**loving others, **▶**imitating faithful ones, **▶**focusing on the truth, and **▶**following Jesus!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** Benefit from the Bible

Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma; **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com

7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230