

**SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS****Hebrews 13**

**Introduction:** We come now to some practical admonitions for all believers. See here the spiritual blessings Christians have, even if they may lose everything in this world.

**I. SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP (13:1-4)**

Love for God's people is a mark of a true believer (John 13:35). We need the mutual love of each other for encouragement and strength. True Christian love ought to be seen first in the home, so he warns about *sexual sins* that can destroy marriage. In this day when marriage vows are taken so lightly, we need to remember that God judges all immoral people, whether believers or unbelievers.

**II. SPIRITUAL FOLLOWSHIP (13:7-10)**

Here are 3 commandments that refer to the local church, its pastor and people:

**A. "Remember them which have the rule over you" (v. 7).**

The pastor is expected to be the spiritual leader of the flock. He is to lead through the Word of God, which is the spiritual food for God's sheep. Believers are to follow the example of their pastor's faith as they point others to Christ.

**B. "Obey them that have the rule over you" (v. 17).**

It is a solemn thing to be entrusted with the watch-care of souls. The pastor must give an account of his ministry to God and if his flock has disobeyed the Word, sorrow will be theirs, not his. We must respect pastoral leadership and submit to the Word of God.

**C. "Salute all them that have the rule over you" (v. 24).**

The people should be on "speaking terms" with their pastor. It is a sad when Christians get angry and refuse to talk with their pastor. This is disobedience to the Word of God.

**III. SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES (13:11-16)**

In turning to Christ, these folks lost the temple, its priesthood and sacrifices; but they gained in Christ far more than they lost. They were tempted to go back to Judaism but are here encouraged to go *outside the camp* and bear reproach with Christ!

A *spiritual* sacrifice is something done or given in the name of Christ and for His glory. In vs. 15, he states that praise is such a sacrifice. Good works and sharing material blessings are spiritual sacrifices (v. 16). Others include our body (Rom. 12:1-2); offerings (Phil. 4:18); prayer (Ps. 141:2); a broken heart (Ps. 51:17); and souls won (Rom. 15:16).

**IV. SPIRITUAL POWER (13:20-25)**

Vs. 20-21 explains how the Christian is enabled to live for Christ in this wicked world: *Christ works in us from His throne in Heaven*. Three titles given to Christ, our Shepherd:

- (1) **The Good Shepherd**, who dies for the sheep—John 10:11 and Ps. 22;
- (2) **The Great Shepherd**, who perfects the sheep—Heb. 13:20-21 and Ps. 23;
- (3) **The Chief Shepherd**, who will come for the sheep—1 Peter 5:4 and Ps. 24.

The closing greetings show the love that bound believers together in the early church. The closing benediction of grace identifies Paul as the writer (2 Thess. 3:17-18).

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