

DAILY DEVOTIONS:

Week of June 7 – June 12, 2021

Hebrews 13:15-25

MONDAY: Read Hebrews 13

Ask Spirit to help you understand the meaning & purpose He intends here for first century Hebrews – & us!
What issues in this section are most impactful to you? What feelings do you have as you read – and why?

TUESDAY: Read Hebrews 13:15-16 & Romans 12:1-2 & 1Peter 2:5,9-12

Think deeply about the ways that your life is changing to reflect Christ. What would you say to Him about that?
What do you think the author means, "...a sacrifice of praise"? What is the adverb used to describe this sacrifice or offering? How is this sacrifice/offering given? What other forms do these sacrifices that please God take?

WEDNESDAY: Read Hebrews 13:17-19 & Acts 20:28-30 & 1Thessalonians 5:11-13

Meditate with the Spirit concerning the truths presented. How do they affect your relationship with God & your leaders
Compare within these passages the roles/functions of the leaders God calls, equips, & ordains to lead the local church?
Give an example of how members can make a pastor's role joyful. What about sorrowful? What are a few of the problems pastors & deacons might face in leading the church (*reference Acts & 1Thes*)?

THURSDAY: Read Hebrews 13:20-21

Think about having become a new creature in Christ: how has this adjusted your purpose & methods in living?
Look up the definition of "ratified." How does this meaning help you understand the full extent of Christ's work of reconciling us to God? "*May He produce in you*" is not present in Greek; rather, this verse reads literally: "(He) equip or adjust you completely to do His will..." What are the differences between these two phrases?

FRIDAY: Read Hebrews 13:22-25

Pray for the wisdom to understand the remarkable blessings of Christ's gospel in the New & Better Covenant!
Again, the translators have inserted "May" to help the reading of v.25, but it is not present in Greek. Instead, this verse reads: "Grace (be) with all of you." How does this affect your understanding and your life forward?

SATURDAY: Read Hebrews 13

Pray that Spirit will give you the unction to testify to someone today about Christ's unshakable kingdom!
Reread this final chapter and determine the greatest "take away" for you in the author's concluding remarks. Why have you chosen this verse or idea? What adjustments must you address with God to complete this action?

(Use your own Bible & this New American Standard Translation for comparison & better understanding)

Hebrews 13:15-25 (NLT)

15) Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. **16)** And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

17) Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. **18)** Pray for us, for our conscience is clear and we want to live honorably in everything we do. **19)** And especially pray that I will be able to come back to you soon.

20) Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—**21)** may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you or adjust you through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

22) I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, to pay attention to what I have written in this brief exhortation. **23)** I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released from jail. If he comes here soon, I will bring him with me to see you. **24)** Greet all your leaders and all the believers there. The believers from Italy send you their greetings. **25)** May God's grace be with you all.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

1) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **2)** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

1Peter 2:5, 9-12 (NLT)

5) And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. **9)** But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. **10)** "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." **11)** Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12)** Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Acts 20:28-30 (NLT)

28) "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. **29)** I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. **30)** Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. **31)** Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

1Thessalonians 5:11-13 (NLT)

11) So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. **12)** Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. **13)** Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.