

Hebrews 13:1-14

++If you open up your Bibles to this chapter, you'll probably see a chapter title along the lines of, "Concluding Words" or "Concluding Exhortations."

++For 12 chapters we have gotten a crash course on Hebrew history, heritage, and heroes, and how they all pointed to Christ.

++Jesus is Greater than Everything

++These concluding words are similar to the words that you get/got from parents as they were leaving for the night and leaving you home alone, "Be careful to...don't forget to...make sure you..."

++But imbedded within these final words is one statement that rings for eternity...and yes, a pun is intended:

++Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Changed by the Unchanging

++What does that truly mean? What problem does this solve when it comes down to life? Why is it important that Christ doesn't change?

++But Christ doesn't change

++You tackled this important truth in SG

++Because Christ doesn't change, neither does the way His people must act or think

++He begins with some "man to man" relational commands (13:1-4, 7) that hinge upon how Christ has changed us to look different from the world around us:

- 1) Show hospitality when it's inconvenient
- 2) Empathize with those in prison
- 3) Feel the pain of those hurting
- 4) Remain faithful to each other in marriage
 - a) Marriage is a big deal!
 - b) It is symbolic of the covenant relationship between God/man
- 5) You celebrate God's leadership (prayer)

++From here we get to the crux of the unchanging nature of Christ, and our response to it:

++Unchanging Confidence

5 Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have.

For God has said, "I will never fail you.

I will never abandon you."

6 So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper,

so I will have no fear.

What can mere people do to me?"

++If we were to look at the original Greek, we would read this for Hebrews 13:5

++Let your manner of life be without covetousness, being satisfied with the present. God Himself has said, "Never will I leave or forsake you."

++"Let your manner of life" is the word "tropos"

++It's where we get the word "trope" - like a movie trope - a recognizable situation that always happens in movies.

++Your lifestyle (manner of life) as a follower of Christ should be a trope. It is commonplace and recognized by all: you feel the hurt of others, you value marriage, you show hospitality, and you are content - in the present...where God has you. You don't sway with cultural shifts or ideals.

++Why can we be satisfied and content with where we are?

++God will never fail you, He will never abandon you

++With *that* comes confidence in His **help**. **The Lord is my helper**, (not just a *helper*, but a confident helper who brings aid at the right time)

++Unchanging Christ

++Hebrews 13:8-9

++"the same" immovable, unchanging, unwavering

++Find yourself in the unmovable and unchanging Christ today.

++Think about this truth: Christ (who is unchanging) is in the business of changing us (who need it) - daily changing us into looking (tropos) more and more like Him. Changing us to be unchanging. It's a mystery!

++Remember all the changes I talked about earlier? We must get to the point in our spiritual life that we accept His "changing us" without blinking.

++I saw a picture the other day of Hoover Dam.

(show) One thing struck me about this picture. The dam is the bridge between potential and kinetic energy. Walled up behind Hoover Dam is Lake Mead and the rest of the Colorado River...placid, calm, and still...on the other side of the dam is the Colorado River...wild, untamed, and powerful. This immovable dam stands between the two...it's job is to take the potential of the lake and turn it into hydroelectric power (energy) and release the water on the other

side.

++The immovable Christ stands in our lives as that dam. He allows the potential energy we have within (**His** peace, stillness, and calm)...and He releases it to create kinetic and moving energy/faith in our lives.

++His power creates movement...it releases energy into whatever fight of faith you are facing.

++Regardless of what it looks like on the outside, remember that the unchanging Christ is releasing His peace and calm (He'll never fail or abandon) creating a wave of kinetic energy that produces change.

++**Unchanging Covenant**

Hebrews 13:10-14

++Here the writer of Hebrews ties the two covenants together using various words that are rife in covenantal language (altar, priest, blood, sacrifice, sin)

++What was a temporary, incomplete covenant - but not unchanging...just fulfilled (**Heb. 8:13 It is now out of date and will soon disappear.**) Is now completed and sealed with the blood of God's Son - the perfect sacrifice, shed the perfect blood, who now stands as our perfect Priest at the altar to cleanse you of all sin perfectly, once and for all time

++(Rhet?) What is another word for a covenant?

Promise

++What is the eternal, unchanging promise of God?

++That He would bear the spiritual disgrace that we were supposed to bear and die for us. That by His blood and perfect sacrifice, we can now go to Him with confidence to find spiritual grace. Yet, while here on earth, we may bear physical disgrace, but this is not our home...we are looking forward to a home that has been prepared for us - and not of this broken world.