

"Honoring God's Leader's"

Past and Present

Hebrews 13:7-8, 13:17-19

Honor: - adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct. High respect, great esteem

The Author's Exhortation to the People vs. 7-8

- 1) The Command
 - a) "Remember your leaders" – ***leader means to direct, to guide, influence others to follow a recommended course of action – Heb 2:3***
 - i) Former church officials – some may have died
 - (1) Spoke the word of God – ***Acts 8:25***
 - (a) Evangelistic preaching – ***Acts 13:46***
 - (b) Preaching to the church – ***Acts 4:31***
 - b) "Results of the leaders"
 - i) Imitate their Faith – ***means consider its outcome or end - Heb 6:12***
 - (1) How they lived – ***Heb 10:32-34***
 - (2) How they died – some were martyred – ***Acts 7:54-59***
 - c) "Remembrance of Christ"
 - i) Unchanging – He is always the same

We do not worship people or give them the glory, but it is right to honor them for their faithful work.

The Author's Expectations of the People vs.17

- 1) The Challenge
 - a) "Responsive Obedience"
 - i) Application of God's word
 - (1) Believers put into practice what they hear
 - (2) Believers put into practice what they see modeled before them
 - b) "Respectful Submission"
 - i) Authoritative recognition of God's word
 - (1) Essential for harmony amongst believers and leaders
 - (2) Effective administration within the body of believers
 - c) "Responsible Shepherds"
 - i) Accountable to God's word
 - (1) Keep watch over the sheep – ***Jer 23:4, Acts 20:28***
 - (2) Serving with joy – benefits everyone
 - (3) Serving with groaning – no benefit for you

God mediates his earthly rule, secular and spiritual, through various Leaders.

The Author's Entreaty to the People v.18-19

- 1) The Call
 - a) "Request from the leaders "
 - i) Continue to pray for them
 - (1) Clear conscience – integrity
 - (2) Act honorably - conduct
 - (3) Restoration

Constant prayer for our leaders helps preserve the purity and love God wants them to lead with.