

Hebrews

Chapter 13, Part 3

I. Introduction

- a. Lord willing, we will complete this wonderful book today
 - i. We've been in the middle of a very practical passage
 - 1. That continues today with one last point concerning the Old Covenant as it relates to the believer

II. Commentary

a. **Verses 10-14**

- i. This passage has been much abused in Christendom
 - 1. Men have tried to make this everything from the heavenly temple to Jesus' body to the Lord's Supper
 - a. These all seem to depart from the text a bit
- ii. The previous passage had returned to the Levitical dietary laws
 - 1. It seems proper to continue with that train of thought
- iii. *"We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp."*
 - 1. When the writer says "we", he's most likely speaking of the Jews
 - a. This is in keeping with the previous verse on dietary laws
 - b. This is in keeping with the description of the offering
 - 2. The Mosaic Law allowed for the eating of most of the animals which were sacrificed
 - a. However, on the Day of Atonement, those animals were to be taken outside the camp and burned (**Leviticus 16:27**)
 - i. This was prophecy of Jesus (the true sin offering) being sacrificed outside the camp (**John 19:17**)
 - 3. Two points need to be seen here
 - a. There is no connection between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant
 - i. Believers are outside the Camp, where the Law dwells
 - b. More importantly, perhaps, believers are to "*bear the reproach*" of Christ in this world
 - i. This aligns with the practicality of the context
 - 1. Since Jesus was also rejected by the Gentiles outside of the camp, so we are rejected by the world
 - 4. We should have no roots in the current world system
 - a. Our hope is Heaven – the future

b. **Verses 15-16**

- i. Through Jesus, we can rightly approach God in praise and worship
 - 1. This ought to be the continual attitude of our heart
 - 2. This is the natural "*fruit of [the] lips*" of God's children

- ii. We ought to share the blessings God has given us
 - 1. Considering the whole of this book, this could refer to both spiritual and material blessings
 - c. **Verse 17**
 - i. There is a sense in which a church ought to obey the leaders God has sat over them
 - 1. Remember, churches at this time had a plurality of elders
 - a. This is, most likely, what the writer is referring to
 - ii. This passage is quite damaging to the “campus satellite” churches whose pastor is simply somebody they see on a screen
 - 1. In proper order, churches should have pastors (elders) at their local assembly to watch over the people
 - iii. An elder is sometimes going to have to use “tough love”
 - 1. Lay people must learn that it’s for their own benefit when this happens
 - iv. A member should desire to be anything but a problem member for the pastor
 - 1. If you are the type that is always complaining about something, it should be corrected, according to this passage
 - d. **Verses 18-19**
 - i. The writer had a desire to see this church at some point in the future
 - 1. He felt his conscience was clear in what he had taught them in this letter
 - a. Now, he was asking for their prayers for him personally
 - e. **Verses 20-21**
 - i. These closing words show the hope that the writer had that these saints would receive his message and serve the Lord with great zeal
 - 1. Certainly, this was his prayer to God
 - a. God is credited with raising Jesus from the dead
 - b. Jesus is said to be “*the great shepherd of the sheep*”
 - i. Certainly, one cannot help but consider the Good Shepherd sermon (**John 10**)
 - ii. Jesus became the shepherd “*by the blood of the eternal covenant*”
 - 1. We must see that the New Covenant is eternal
 - a. The Old Covenant has passed away
 - c. God, through His Spirit and Word, equips us “*with everything good that you may do his will*”
 - i. And even, it is said that He works in us “*that which is pleasing in his sight*”
 - 1. So, whatever we have to offer, He is even credited with it
 - a. Make sure to note, all we have to offer must be done “*through Jesus Christ*”
- f. **Verses 22-25**
 - i. He urges them to believe his brief letter
 - 1. This letter seems anything but brief to us

- ii. Timothy had been imprisoned for some reason
 - 1. We don't have any information as to why he was imprisoned or where
 - a. We can rightly assume that it was because of his stance in the Gospel and perhaps in Ephesus
- iii. The writer was going to send Timothy to them if he had contact with him soon
 - 1. Some make this necessarily to be Paul
 - a. However, nothing about this letter seems Pauline
 - i. This random comment about Timothy could have come from anybody Timothy was acquainted with
- iv. Greetings are sent to the leaders of the church and the other believers
- v. The mentioning of Italy may give us some indication of where these believers were
 - 1. But at best, this is speculation