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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Hebrews 13

can read like a

list of rules:

- Do this and don't do that,
 - But it also includes vital and enduring truths.

- The instructions create a picture of how these believers are to live:
- Until they finish the race of faith (**Hebrews 12:1**)
- And enter God's heavenly city (**Hebrews 12:22–24**).

- Chapter 12

closes with
the intense quote
from Deuteronomy,

***“Our God is
a consuming fire”***

(Hebrews 12:29; Deut 4:24).

- It is a **shocking** thought;
- But in it there is the **eternal truth**:
 - If a man is true to God, he **gains** everything and,
 - If he is untrue to God, he **loses** everything.
 - In time and in eternity nothing really matters **save loyalty to God.**

- In this chapter,
as throughout
this whole letter,
it is evident that
God is interested in
how
we live our lives.

- As we come to the close of the Hebrew letter, the writer to the Hebrews turns to practical things.

- Here he outlines five essential qualities of the Christian life.

- (# 1) There is brotherly love
- (# 2) There is hospitality.
- (# 3) There is sympathy for those in trouble.
- (# 4) There is purity.
- (# 5) There is contentment.

- The Peanuts cartoon
on one occasion
pictured Linus saying:
 - “**I love mankind;
it’s people I can’t stand.**”
- We all over-rate ourselves
in the area of love.
 - We love “mankind.”
- Do you love difficult family members?
- Do you love those difficult church folk?

- If so, how did you show it in your words and behavior last week?
- If someone irritated you, did you respond with patience and kindness?
- “*Love is patient, love is kind*”
(1 Cor. 13:4).
 - Did you get angry?
- “*Love ... is not provoked*”
(1 Cor. 13:5).
 - There are at least 55 New Testament commands to love one another!
- **Do you have room to grow?**

- **Hebrews 13**

contains many practical commands.

- We need to remember that it rests on the **first 12 chapters,** which are largely **doctrinal in nature.**
- That's the usual pattern in the New Testament epistles:
 - **First, Doctrine;**
 - **Second, Application.**

- If you focus on the doctrine without application, it leads to spiritual pride.

- “*Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up*”
(**1 Cor. 8:1**).

- There are two great commandments:

- Love God;

- Love others.

- The first

is the foundation
for

the second.

(**Matthew 22:37-39**)

- There are always two dangers regarding love:

- First, there is the danger of heresy-hunting.

- The desire to keep the faith pure tends to make men eager to track down and eliminate the heretic.

- Second, there is the danger of stern and unsympathetic treatment of the man whose faith has failed.

- It is a great thing to keep the faith pure.
- But when the desire to do so makes us harsh and unsympathetic, brotherly love is destroyed.

- Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meeekness; considering thyself, lest you also be tempted.

- The negative side of **“Let brotherly love continue”** (Hebrew 13:1) is to be constantly **on our guard** against those things which are likely to prevent us from loving our brother/sister.

- Let us beware of **that insatiable thirst within us,** that if given reign, that *never* says:

- **It is enough.**
- **Proverbs says it well.**

- **The root hindrance**
to brotherly love
is self-love.
- Being so occupied
with number one
that the interests of others
are lost sight of.
- In **Proverbs 30:15** we read,
**"The horse-leech
hath two daughters
crying
Give, give."**

- Spiritually the
"horse-leech"
represents self-love
and her two daughters are:

- Self-righteousness,

- Self-pity.

- As the horse-leech
is never satisfied

- so self-love
is never contented.

- **Hebrews 13:3**

***Remember them that are in bonds,
as bound with them;
and them which suffer adversity,
as being yourselves also in the body.***

- In the early days
no Christian in trouble
for his faith
**was ever neglected
or forgotten**
by his fellow Christians.

- Christians became so notorious for their help to brothers/sisters in need that at the beginning of the fourth century the Emperor Licinius passed new legislation that:

- ***"No one was to show kindness to sufferers in prison by supplying them with food and that no one was to show mercy to those starving in prison."***

It was added that those who were discovered so doing would be compelled to suffer the same fate as those they tried to help.

{Harnack's Expansion of Christianity {Adolf Harnack - Source:<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/harnack/mission.html>}

- **Hebrews 13:4**

***Marriage is honourable in all,
and the bed undefiled:
but whoremongers and adulterers
God will judge.***

- As God hath knit together
the **bones** and **sinews**
for the strengthening of our bodies,
- So He has ordained the
joining of man and woman together
in wedlock
- For the strengthening of their lives,
"two are better than one"
(**Ecclesiastes 4:9**)

- When God made the woman for the man He said,
**"I will make him
a help meet for him"**
(Genesis 2:18)
- Thereby, showing
**that man is
greatly benefited**
by having a wife.

- Marriage is a life changing event.
- It forms a bond of union which binds them until death.
- It brings them into such intimate relations that they must either sweeten or embitter each other's existence.

- The present decay of home life and family discipline threaten the stability of our nation today far more severely than does any foreign enemy.
- "*Marriage is honorable*:" says our text,
 - God Himself has placed special honor upon it.

- Marriage was the **first ordinance**
God instituted,
 - The first thing He did after man and woman were created,
 - And that, while they were still **in their unfallen state.**
 - **The place** where their marriage occurred shows the honorableness of this institution:
 - Marriage was solemnized **in Eden itself!**

- "God's crowning creative act was the making of woman.
- At the close of each creative day it is formally recorded that 'God saw what He had made, that it was good.'
- But when Adam was made, it is explicitly recorded that 'God saw it was not good..
- No good that the man should be alone.'
(**Genesis 2:18**)

- As regarding man God's creative work **lacked completeness,**
- That completeness was found in man's counterpart and companion.
His wife.
- **Not till this need was met**
did God see the work of the last creative day
also to be good.

- It is God's intent that the marriage bond **is to be universally respected.**
- The writer to the Hebrews uses **two words.**
- **The one denotes adulterous living;**
 - The other denotes **all kinds of impurity.**
 - Into the heathen world the Christians brought **a new ideal of purity.**
- Even the **heathen** admitted that.

- There is contentment.
- "*Let your conversation*
{Manner of Life}
be without covetousness." (Heb 13:5)
- The Greek word which is here rendered "covetousness" is literally "lover of silver,"
 - The Christians must be free from the love of money.
 - For he possesses the continual presence of God?
 - Nothing that man can give him can improve on that.

- Now some sins are more easily detected than others.

- But covetousness is only too often winked at.

- The world applauding it as legitimate ambition.

- All sorts of excuses are made for this sin.

- It is indeed a

- very subtle sin,

- which few are conscious of.

- Few suspect that this is one of the prevailing iniquities of their hearts,

- They are rather inclined to regard this vice as a virtue.

- God's Divine law declares:

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's
(Exodus 20:17).

- To His disciples Christ said,
***"Take heed, and beware of
covetousness:
for a man's life consist not
in the abundance of the things
which he possesses"***
(Luke 12:15).
 - Those guilty of
covetous are linked with
"drunkards and **adulterers,**"
- And such are excluded from
the kingdom of God
(1Cor 6:10).

- Colossians 3:5 (NET)

**So put to death
whatever in your nature
belongs to the earth:**

- **sexual immorality,**
 - **impurity,**
- **shameful passion,**
 - **evil desire,**
- **and greed which is idolatry.**

- God's Word sets before us some fearfully solemn examples of the judgments which fell upon covetous souls.
 - The fall of Adam and Eve originated in covetousness, lusting after that which God had forbidden.
 - 2 Peter 2:15
By forsaking the right path they have gone astray, because they followed the way of Balaam who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

- See what covetousness did for [Achan](#), who lusted after the forbidden silver and gold: he and his whole family were stoned to death (**Joshua 7**).
- Look at [Gehazi](#) who lusting after the money his master had refused, and in consequence, was smitten with leprosy (**2 Kings 5**).

- Consider the case of Judas, who for thirty pieces of silver sold the Lord of glory.
- Or Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5**).
- In view of these warnings shall we call this iniquity "a little sin"?

***Do not be carried away
by all sorts of strange teachings.***

(Hebrews 13:9 NET)

- There has never been
a shortage of
strange doctrines in the church.

- **Hebrews 2:1**

***Therefore we ought to give
the more earnest heed
to the things which
we have heard,
lest at any time
we should let them slip.***

- **Hebrews 2:3**

***How shall we escape,
if we neglect so great salvation;***

- **Ephesians 4:14**

***“Be no more children,
tossed to and fro,
and carried about with
every wind of doctrine,
by the sleight of men,
and cunning craftiness,
whereby they lie in wait
to deceive.”***

- Paul speaks of the clever trickery of men;
 - The word he uses is **"sleight"**.
 - A Greek word (kubeia, <G2940>) means skill in manipulating **the dice.**
 - There are always those **who by ingenious arguments** seek to lure people away from the faith.

- There is only one way to avoid being tricked by the latest religious arguments.
- To avoid being seduced by golden tongue speakers.
 - And that is by continual growth.
 - 2 Peter 1:5
*Giving all diligence,
add to your faith virtue;
and to virtue knowledge;*

- Hebrews 13:14

*For here have we no continuing city,
but we seek one to come.*

- Like Moses,
*A city whose
builder and maker
is God.*

(Hebrews 11:10)

- In this world
we are often bereaved by
some unforeseen circumstance.
- The world is full of changes,
- Death takes away those whom we love,
 - And will soon take us away.

- **Benedictions**
are often greeted
with great delight,
- For it means that
the service will soon end
and the people will be free to go!
- Benedictions must
never be taken for granted
or treated in a casual way;
- They are enormously
important.

- Hebrews 13:20

The peace of God

- Philippians 4:7

*And the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus.*

- The way to God's peace
is to have a
solid foundation.

- *Righteousness
is an everlasting
foundation.*

(Proverbs 10:25)

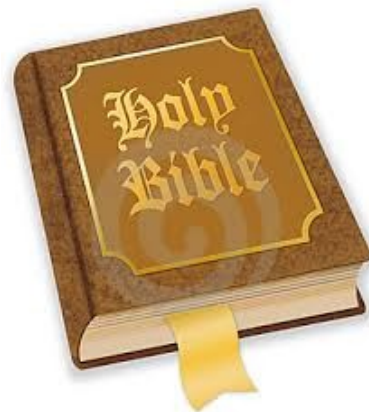
- Paul's closing prayer is a summary of the whole book of Hebrews.
 - In it he outlines all that a believer needs for succeeding in this life.
 - Thus bringing glory to God. (**Hebrews 13:21**)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 01-22-2023 Tryon, NC

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