

22 – FINAL WORDS (HEBREWS 13:9-25)

I. Christian Sacrifices (Hebrews 13:9-16)

A. Beware of Strange Doctrines (Hebrews 13:9)

- The writer urges his readers not to be carried away by strange doctrines.
- The writer states that it is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace.
- It is not profitable to be focused on legalism.
- Some false teachers had taught his readers to submit to the Mosaic dietary laws.

Scripture Colossians 2:16 (ESV)

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

B. The Christian Altar (Hebrews 13:10-16)

1. A Better Altar (Hebrews 13:10)

- The writer calls his readers to remember that they have a better altar.
- It was a custom the priest received their food from the altar.
- Those who hold to the old covenant cannot partake of the better altar.

2. The Old Covenant Sacrifices (Hebrews 13:11)

- According to the Law, the bodies of the sacrifices were destroyed outside of the camp.

3. Jesus' Sacrifice (Hebrews 13:12)

- In order to sanctify believers, Jesus suffered outside of the city.

4. Go to Jesus (Hebrews 13:13-14)

- The readers are called to go to Jesus and suffer as he did.
- Our hope is not found here, but in the city that is to come.

5. The Sacrifice of Praise (Hebrews 13:15)

- We are to continually offer praise and thanksgiving to God.

6. Personal Sacrifices (Hebrews 13:16)

Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

- Doing good and sharing with others are personal sacrifices that please God.

II. Final Words (Hebrews 13:17-25)

A. Obedience to Leadership (Hebrews 13:17)

- The writer calls his readers to obey their spiritual leaders.
- These leaders are accountable to God to watch over the spiritual wellbeing of believers.
- Spiritual leadership should be a joy rather than a grief which does no one any good.

B. Prayer (Hebrews 13:18-19)

- The readers are called to pray for spiritual leadership to live honorably.
- The writer calls his readers to pray that he can return to them.

C. Doxology (Hebrews 13:20-21)

- The writer pronounces a doxology where he asks God to make his readers complete.

D. The Appeal (Hebrews 13:22)

- The writer calls his readers to listen to what he has said in this letter.

E. Concerning Timothy (Hebrews 13:23)

- He reports that Timothy was freed and will be coming to them shortly.

F. Greetings (Hebrews 13:24)

- The writer sends greetings to the spiritual leaders and the believers.
- Believers in Italy send their greetings.

G. Blessing (Hebrews 13:25)

- The writer pronounces a blessing of grace on his readers.