

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Hebrews 13

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Hebrews thirteen is filled with final instructions and exhortations to the Jewish believers who were tempted to return to the way of life before coming to Jesus as Messiah and Savior. Paul was concerned that going backward to the concepts of separating people as Jews and Gentiles might cause some to begin to forsake those who had come to Jesus, as non-Jews, and the concept of loving people as Jesus said might be no longer a key component of their lives individually or have its rightful place in the church. The Hebrews were commanded to ***continue to love and show hospitality.*** (vv.1-2) This phrase is the translation of a present imperative which means they were to continue to do what they were doing without stopping. The church must have been a great and loving fellowship, and the apostle is saying don't stop. They were to continue to show hospitality. In the early church that wasn't just having milk and cookies together, it was taking people into their homes as many were being persecuted and were having to flee to other towns and cities to escape being killed or imprisoned. Hospitality was a major consideration for the first century believers and should be our practice today in caring for those who have lost everything for the cause of Jesus Christ the Lord.

An amazing statement is made after the admonition for hospitality as the writer cautions the Hebrews that they never know that those who come to them for shelter and care might be and by implication, some have been God sent messengers to perhaps test the love and sincerity of the church. Could this still be true today?

In the same thought, they were instructed to remember those who were being imprisoned because of their witness of Jesus. It is important to make mention that this imprisonment was not for doing wrong, but for doing right. There is a big difference, while it is true, we must always reach out to those who are imprisoned and share the love of God with them. It is those who are being persecuted and imprisoned for their faithfulness to the Lord that the writer has in mind.

Please read the chapter in its entirety as there are admonitions about the purity of sexual relations within the confines of marriage, living a godly life of contentment and listening to, praying for, and following the admonitions of godly leaders, and more.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord Jesus, thank you that you have given us a fellowship of loving brothers and sisters to care for each other and to pray and work together for your glory. Please help those who are suffering to follow you. Especially encourage, strengthen, and help those who are imprisoned today for being a true follower and servant in Jesus' name.

Amen