

We are busy looking at the last chapter of the book of Hebrews, in which the writer of the book is giving us a number of instructions to follow because of all we have learned about Jesus in the first 12 chapters.

Last week I gave this section the following title:

WHAT WE MUST DO BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE

IN PART 1 I MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

- 1. PERSISTANTLY SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE**
- 2. BE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOSPITABLE**
- 3. PROTECT FELLOW BELIEVERS UNDER ATTACK**
- 4. PROMOTE MARITAL PURITY**
- 5. PRACTICE LIFESTYLE SIMPLICITY**

Let us read the next 10 verses:

v7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. v8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. v9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them. v10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. v11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. v12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. v13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. v14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. v15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. v16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:7-16

WHAT WE MUST DO BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE – PART 2

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

6. PONDER YOUR PASTORS PRACTICES

v7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

- 6.1 **HAVE THEY BEEN LEADERS?** – The word translated leaders is “to govern” – True leaders are those that govern the organisation. They should not be dictators, they should be visionary, yet team players. Able to lead, but also open to being taught.

- 6.2 **HAVE THEY PREACHED GOD’S WORD** – The measure of an effective ministry should be MATURE BELIEVERS. I have said this in the past and will say it again in the future. I encourage you, no I challenge you to test what I am preaching against the Word of God, and if you find that I am preaching error, PLEASE FIRE ME ON THE SPOT!!!
- 6.3 **DOES THEIR WALK MATCH THEIR TALK?** – What kind of example is your Pastor setting? Are their lives worth imitating?
- 6.4 **DON’T FORGET TO GIVE PASTORAL FAMILIES A THOUGHT?** – Many of you will not know this but being a Pastor can be one of the loneliest jobs in the world. Many people think that Pastors and their families are super-spiritual and steer away from them because they are afraid, they will be judged if they fail in the Pastors presence. PASTORS FAIL AS WELL!!

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

7. PURSUE PURE DOCTRINE

v9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them

7.1 BEWARE OF “NEW” TEACHING

In the Greek we are warned against two potentially false things.

7.1.1 TEACHING WHICH BLENDS OLD AND NEW.

There is a lot of teaching around which tries to bring Old Testament practices into a New Testament Church. This is one of the main reasons this book of Hebrews was written. JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE OT.

7.1.2 TEACHING WHICH COME FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

There are many in our day that call themselves “PROPHET” so-and-so. The rule of a Prophet in the OT was, “if the prophecy did not come true, the prophet should be stoned to death”. In our day, when a “prophet” speaks nonsense, he blames the people for not having enough faith.

7.2 SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE!!!

v9 “It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace.”

The BIBLE is clear: *Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- v9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

7.3 SALVATION IS NOT BY WORKS!!!

v9 “not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.”

The BIBLE is clear: *Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- v9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

8. PRESENT THE SAME SACRIFICE AS CHRIST DID

v10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. v11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. v12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. v13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. v14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

8.1 WE MUST CLAIM CHRIST'S SACRIFICE AS OUR OWN

v10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. v11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.

We eat at the Lord's Table. His body and His blood.

8.2 WE MUST TAKE UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS

v13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore

The Cross is the symbol of "disgrace" we must gladly bear.

8.3 WE MUST REMEMBER THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME

v14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Jesus promised to come to take us where He is also.

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

9. HAVE A PASSION FOR PRAISE

v15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. v16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

9.1 PRAISE FROM OUR LIPS.

v15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Jesus commands praise from all. EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS, "JESUS IS LORD!"

9.2 PRAISE FROM OUR POCKETS.

v16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Matthew 25:37-40 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? v38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? v39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' v40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:

10. PROCLAIM THE PERSON OF CHRIST

***v8 Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and forever.***

CONCLUSION

**BECAUSE WE KNOW JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN EVERY
WAY POSSIBLE, WE MUST:**

- 1. PERSISTANTLY SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE**
- 2. BE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOSPITABLE**
- 3. PROTECT FELLOW BELIEVERS UNDER ATTACK**
- 4. PROMOTE MARITAL PURITY**
- 5. PRACTICE LIFESTYLE SIMPLICITY**
- 6. PONDER YOUR PASTORS PRACTICES**
- 7. PURSUE PURE DOCTRINE**
- 8. PRESENT THE SAME SACRIFICE AS CHRIST DID**
- 9. HAVE A PASSION FOR PRAISE**
- 10. PROCLAIM THE PERSON OF CHRIST**