

FOR HE HIMSELF HAS SAID

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Hebrews 13:5-6

1. The letter of Hebrews was written to encourage discouraged believers during a time of persecution.
2. In verses 1-3 of this chapter these persecuted believers were told:
 - a. To let love of the brethren continuously be manifested.
 - b. By showing hospitality to strangers (brothers and sisters in Christ who had been displaced from their homes).
 - c. By remembering, praying for, and providing for those who had been imprisoned because of their faith since all true Christians are a part of the body of Christ.
3. Verse 4 commanded believers to:
 - a. Honor marriage and enjoy the intimacy that is a God-ordained part of marriage.
 - b. Maintain celibacy outside of marriage and faithfulness within marriage because fornicators and adulterers will be judged by God.

NOTE: This message and warning needs to be emphasized in the church today because infidelity and immorality are both serious problems throughout the modern American church.

1 Cor 6:9-10

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived**; neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, **nor adulterers**, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, **will inherit the kingdom of God.**

Eph 5:3-5

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 **For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.**

Gal 5:19-22

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

4. In verse 5 readers were commanded to make sure that their character was free from the love of money while being content with what they had based on the sure promises of God.
5. As Christians we are to live our lives based on the things that God has said.
6. Let's expand on this truth and see if we are actually doing so.

I. For He Himself has said.

A. God has said that He will never desert or forsake those who belong to Him.

B. Paul stated this truth clearly in Rom 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. Now God has said, or told us, everything we need to know, everything we need to do, and everything we are not to do in order to live for Him and before Him in this present world. Deut 29:29

29 " The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

D. The problem is that many professing Christians do not take seriously everything that God Himself has said.

E. Let me illustrate what I mean by looking at Jesus' command related to our responsibility to love one another as believers. John 13:34-35

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 " By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1. Jesus' command is clearly stated and defined.

2. We are to actively love one another as Jesus has loved us.

NOTE: No Christian can be pleasing to God who does not live out this command.

3. Less we misunderstand what Jesus said John defined love for us in 1 John 3:16.

"We know (define) love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

4. There is no way this command can be obeyed apart from active and ongoing involvement with a body of believers to which God has led us and added us.

5. This command is not being obeyed by those:

a. Who simply attend some church even on a regular basis.

b. Who forsake the assembling of themselves together because they can't find a church that meets all of their criterions.

c. Who decide that they can be pleasing to God in isolation.

NOTE: If you are a genuine believer than God has a group of believers that He wants you to be intimately involved with and accountable to. Any church or group will not do. As a pastor God has a particular place of service and ministry for me. It is His choice and not mine. Multiplied

numbers of Christians chose their church based on convenience and their personal preferences. The church God may want you in might not be everything you want or think it should be. Let God be God and seek His guidance in this matter.

II. So that we may confidently say.

A. What we say can be stated with confidence if it is based on what God Himself has said.

B. The problem today is that many teachers make confident assertions that are not based on what God Himself has said. 1 Tim 1:3-7

3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make **confident assertions** .

C. We have no right to go beyond what God Himself has said in our preaching and teaching.

D. Speculative and subjective application of God's Word has led to all sorts of distortions of the Gospel and the truth by which we are to live our Christian lives.

III. The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will (can) man do to me?

A. Based on what God Himself has said:

1. The Lord is my helper.
2. Because He is my helper I will not be afraid.
3. Because the Lord is my helper no person can ultimately harm me.

B. The Christian life has become very complex because we will not embrace, believe, and obey what God Himself has said.

APPLICATION

1. The Bible is a record of what God Himself has said.

2. There is nothing you or I need to know that God has kept from us.

3. According to Peter God in His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. II Peter 1:3

4. Every true believer who prayerfully studies and applies God's Word **with the help of the Holy Spirit** will come to know the truth and be set free by the truth. John 8:31-32

5. Any genuine Christian who chooses to ignore or disobey what God Himself has said is living in a state of rebellion.

6. That person is continually grieving the Holy Spirit, inviting the chastisement of God, and wasting their time trying to pray.