

Hebrews #38
Hebrews 13:7-16
17021-A March 19, 2107

I. John 10:22-30. Jesus is gathering a flock. He is stating facts here.

- A. Note the distinction He makes.
- B. Note the evidence of faith—following Him
- C. Note the source of it all—I know them.

II. How can you tell when people are walking with Jesus Christ?

A. Last week: Three evidences of the Spirit's Regeneration. Heb. 13:1-6

A.1. Tangible: Love of people

A.1.a) Friendship-love in the body, Hospitality to strangers, Empathy for those in trouble

A.2. Sexual Integrity: Honor marriage.

A.2.a) Commitment to sexual purity in the form of biblical marriage.

A.3. Financial Spirituality: Understand money spiritually, KingdomThink

A.3.a) Don't love money. Generally content. Trust God to meet their needs.

A.4. Note WorldThink:

A.4.a) Loves the first one of these (loving people)

A.4.b) Hates the second (limits on sexual relationships)

A.4.c) Thinks the third is simply crazy. Invest in an invisible reality? What?

III. What will help us hear and follow the Lord? 4 pieces of spiritual direction. Hebrews 13:7-15.

A. Consider your mentors. Who shapes my thinking? 7

A.1. Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you

A.1.a) Who shared Christ with you and influenced you?

A.1.b) Considering the result (outcome) of their lifestyle --

(A.1.b.1) Considering = to examine carefully, thinking well about the outcome.

A.2. Imitate their faith.

A.2.a) *Many mentors have no faith to imitate!*

A.3. One of the great myths of our culture is that you are autonomous, self-directed, the master of your own thoughts and destiny.

A.3.a) *You are affected by the people you look up to and you may not actually know who they are.*

B. Watch what you eat. What nourishes my soul? 8-9

B.1. Jesus is the same. He doesn't change

B.1.a) Meaning: the gospel message doesn't change and His love for you doesn't change, and His character doesn't change.

B.1.b) There is a stable person in the universe and the message about him is therefore stable

B.2. So don't be carried away by varied and strange teachings.

B.2.a) Don't mistake news for spiritual truth.

(B.2.a.1) Just because something is new, doesn't make it right.

B.2.b) Don't mistake religion for faith in Christ.

(B.2.b.1) Faith in Jesus is the opposite of "religion"

B.2.c) Don't mistake Christian jargon for real gospel.

(B.2.c.1) Adding new gospel messages? **Gal. 1:6-10**

B.2.d) *Tons of what passes for Christian wisdom is just pulp with a short shelf-life.*

B.3. Because your heart needs Grace as nourishment.

B.3.a) Heart (kardia) = the entire acting self, cognition, intuition, volition.

(B.3.a.1) This is where regeneration takes place, where God transforms.

B.3.b) *Religion and humanized "spirituality" sound good, but they starve us, like drinking salt water when you're thirsty.*

B.4. *BTW: Almost nothing on TV or in the entertainment world actually nourishes our souls.*

- C. **Embrace the reproach. How am I different? 10-14. Chosen Expats. 1 Pet.1:1-2.**
- C.1. Reproach: oneidismos = to be spoken badly of without cause, criticized, gossiped about.
- C.2. We have an altar. the cross. – But it's **outside** Judaism and all human religion
- C.2.a) From which those who serve the tabernacle. Judaism
- C.2.b) Have no right to eat? *Judaism has no right to eat at the altar?*
- C.2.c) *Jn.1:12-13. The offer of the gospel grace is universal. The experience of it is not.*
- C.2.d) Sin offerings were burned -- outside the gate.
- (C.2.d.1) Jesus was crucified outside of Jerusalem/ Judaism
- (C.2.d.2) *Because sin alienates us from God's presence, the Holy Place*
- C.2.e) So we should go with Him -- outside the camp -- Judaism
- (C.2.e.1) Again -- It's Jesus or Judaism, but not both.
- C.3. We have a citizenship in another city. 14
- C.3.a) Which means we don't really have a city here in this age.
- C.4. *How important is it to be an "insider" in this culture?*
- D. **Live out your offering (sacrifice). Is all of my life 15-16 (Rom.12:1-2)**
- D.1. The Jewish sacrificial system is fulfilled in the Christian community when we praise Him and serve others in His name.
- D.2. **Praise**: Not a sacrifice you make to atone for your sins—but praise for the sacrifice He made to atone for your sins.
- D.2.a) Your sacrifices don't earn your place with God—His do.
- D.2.b) Praise is Christ-centered, Father focused, Spirit led, grace oriented, verbal, audible, understandable, expression of love and loyalty.
- D.2.c) We do it together. Let us...
- D.3. **Good deeds**, generosity: salt and light in this world. Matt.5:13-14

IV. **All because His Sacrifice has put you in His Name**

- A. In His Name—His Identity and His Authority (Lord and Savior)
- A.1. We come into His identity. In Christ.
- A.2. We come under His authority. The true Lord
- B. And so we share His Destiny... This is great news.