

Feb 20

Title: The Lord is My Shepherd

Text: Hebrews 13:18-25

We are in Hebrews chapter 13. Hebrews chapter 13 beginning at Vs 18. In this chapter we are looking at the specific responsibilities we have as believers. Responsibilities that flow out-off the great teachings of this book.

(Read 13:18-25)

Prayer

In Vs 1-6 we look at our responsibilities towards one another in the areas of ministry, marriage and money.

In vs 7-17 we studied ~~that~~ <sup>The</sup> responsibilities that we have towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

(8B) Now, Vs 18, and our RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE WRITER AND HIS MESSAGE.

(1C) First of all, in terms of praying for him. By the way I believe that the Apostle Paul is the writer of the book of Hebrews; and most of the reasons for this belief is found here in these last few verses of Hebrews.

In terms of praying, Vs 18 says, "Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorable in all things, and I urge you all the more to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner."

- (1) To Remember our leaders - those who led us in the Lord
- (2) Don't be carried away by false doctrine
- (3) To Remember the reproach of the Lord
- (4) To Obey our leaders.

(10) A couple of things about what he is saying. "Pray for me"...First, **is conduct.** It deals with motivation. The little phrase "desiring to ~~do~~ conduct ourselves honorable" refers to the manner of my life which should be conducted in a well, or ~~orderly~~ manner. The point is that Paul was persuaded that the motive of his life was to please God. So, he says pray for me that my motive of life might be to please or serve God.

(21) **The second thing involved in this manner of praying deals with his coming to them.** In Vs 19 he says that I ~~am~~ be restored to you the sooner." This is one reason why I believe this book was written by Paul. It is talking about a former presence with them. A relationship that he now wants to be restored. Let me put this together for you. Especial for those of you who have been with me throughout this study of Hebrews.

As you think about this study and what we have said, it seem most naturally to assume that the Jews are the Jews of Jersualem. That the writer is Paul and he is in Roma. They knew Paul well. He grow up in Jersualem. They new his former manner of life before becoming a christian. They knew him afterwards. They knew him well. And Paul is writting this message to them. And causing them to relate to the whole Gentle world that has now come into the body of Christ--Jew and Gentle together.

These Christian Jews were tempted to say away from the Gentle Christians do to the coming persecution. Paul warns them that they will not escape even if they try to isolate themselves. And they didn't as history tells us that Titus came with his Roman leagues and destroyed Jersualem.

Now, we know that Hebrews was written prior to 70 A.D. because the Temple was still standing and the sacrific was still being offered. And Paul is waring them about the doctrine of Christ and staying with it and not trying to escape from it because of persecution. And he wants to be ~~restored~~ to them to tell them how God is working amongst the Gentles.

(20) **Now let's look at Vs 20 and 21 in terms of pleaseing God.** Vs 20 and 21 **is** a summary of the entire book. The book really ends at the end of Vs 21. The last few verses are just words of greetings and so forth.

(read Vs 20-21)

Now, those two verses are a summary of the entire book of Hebrews. Hebrews has dealt with the Person and work of Jesus Christ. That he is exalted above all. His is the authority above everything. He went to the cross and paid the supreme price for our sins. Now, we have a summary.

Now The whole heart of <sup>these verses</sup> ~~this summary~~ is to be well pleasing to God.

~~Now~~, I want to please God and you want to please God. But do you remember what happens when you <sup>set</sup> ~~set~~ out to please God. I mean you really want to do the right thing. And you start out in the morrowing and you say, "I really want to please God, I am going to do the right thing."

And everything turns out bad. Nothing goes right. And furstrations again sets in...We really want to please God. BUT HOW DO WE DO IT?

These two verses asre reminding us that just like we have nothing to do with our salvation, so ~~we~~ also we, have nothing to do with please God... God knows our problem that we cannot please Him. The Bible says that those in the flesh cannot ~~be~~ <sup>or</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>do not</sup> have the ability to please God. No one pleases God, says the Bible.

**THEN HOW IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING TO PLEASE GOD WHEN HE ASK US TO DO THAT?** THE ANSWER...That God, just like in salvation, so now in Christian life, God is going to work it in you.

Philippians 2:13 says that it is God who works in you both to will and to do his good pleasure.

What you and I cannot do, God will do...Because he has said and he will accomplish that all things that he has designed will praise his name. Now, you may not want to praise his name. But, I will tell you right now his is going to get glory from you.

The entire creation is going to bring glory and praise to God. He is going to get glory from our lives. He deserves it.

1 (10) <sup>See</sup> Now, in terms of pleaseing god, notice the power behind this.

Vs 20 says "Now, the God of peace," Vs 21 "equip you in every good thing."

(E) I see the Power of God in my life causing me to please him, **FIRST OF ALL IN THE EXALTATION OF JESUS CHRIST.** The Bible says in Vs 20 that "the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the Great Shepherd of the sheep." He is the one who will equip me for every good thing.

~~Now~~ <sup>Now</sup>, According to the Bible, Jesus said in John 10 that if I have the power to lay down my life, I have the power to take it again. That Jesus is involved in his own resurrection.

In the book of Romans chapter 8:11 the Bible says it is the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the Dead.

First, Jesus said that he could <sup>raise</sup> bring himself from the dead.

Secondly, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit can raise Jesus from the dead.

But, let's look at Ephesians chapter 1, please. Ephesians chapter one to examine <sup>How</sup> the power of God, God the Father was manifested and displayed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and his resulting exaltation at the right hand of God.

Ephesians chapter 1:18... We are talking, here, about God, the Father according to Vs 17, "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory." Vs 18, Paul prays, "that the eyes of your .....(READ VS 18-23)

In Vs 19 it says, "the surpassing greatness of his power."

In Vs 20 ~~is when~~ he raised up Christ from the dead.

Now, knowing that and knowing what Hebrews 13:20 says, it appears to me that the power that the Heavenly Father exercised in raising Christ from the dead ...is the same power that <sup>He</sup> is working in my life to perform his will....

You see, most of the time you and I just get in the way. You know that don't you. We just get in the way...

God's power, that caused the Father to raise Jesus from the dead, is working in the believer to cause us to do God's will.

~~Turn back to Hebrews 13, again. I see that power of god in causing me to~~



2 (2A) Turn back to Hebarews 13, again. I see that power of God in causing me to please Him and to do his will, not only in the exaltation of Christ, but I see it, also, in the equipping of the believer.

Look please at Vs 21. The Bible says that God the father, the God of peace who brought again Jesus from the dead is going to equip you in every good thing.

Do you believe that? God is going to equipp you. <sup>SOFTLY</sup> Isn't it great when Jesus said to the men he called to be his disciples. He said, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Isn't that neat? ... God will make us what he wants us to be, *if we will let Him*

What do we do? We run around trying to make ourselves into something. God will equipp us. And he is going to equip us in every good thing to do His will.

This is another reason why I know that Paul wrote this book because he is the one who taught us about equipping.

For example in Ephesians 4:11 and 12 it says, "that God gave us apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors-teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of christ."

Paul wrote to Timothy and he said "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequately equipped for every good work."

When Jesus was walking <sup>by</sup> the seashore and calling his disciples, the Bible says they were mending their nets....SAME WORD....

Let me illustrate...Equipping was used in the acient world in two basic ways. And I think it will help us identify with what God wants to do in our lives so that we will be pleasing <sup>to Him</sup>

(2A) **First, it was used of acient fishing.** They used nets; and do to the lead of the fish, often the net would break, and they would lose the fish. And so they would bring those nets to shore and a very common sight, even today, in the acient world, is fishermen mending their nets.

That is the word translated "equip" or "perfect" if you are using the KJV. in Vs 21.

And you know, sometimes my life seems like that. There is a hole in it. The net is broken. And the fish are slipping through.

God the Father will mend the net. He will put your life back together. Sometimes things happen to us and we wonder why do they happen? Our lives are broken, like the nets, but God can mend them back together. He can put your whole life back together. So that it please him and honors him, *if you will let Him*

Now, there is a second ~~way~~ way it is used. Not only mending, but ancient doctors when a bone was broken they would put those bones back together. And the putting of those bones back together is the same word translated "equip" or "perfect".

Now, sometimes, literally our bones are out of order, but spiritually sometimes we are out of place. Things don't have meaning and purpose as they once did. And the Bible says that God the Father has the power to put ~~that~~ you back together. So that you will be pleaseing to him. Isn't that neat? No matter what happened in your life, no matter what the trials or the test, God is going to put it back together in his way and his time so that we can become more effective for him. And that we please him in all that we do. It is He that is working in us for every good thing. PRAISE THE LORD.

(2D) Now, we notice, also, in this matter of pleasing God in terms of the person through who it is done. It is always done through Jesus.

And this remains <sup>us</sup> of the total doctrine of the book of Hebrews. It is always done through Jesus. The only way you and I can ever do God's will and please Him is because of Jesus. And there are two principles in Vs 20 that remaind me that only Jesus can do it.

(1E) First, that little phrase "the great shepherd of the sheep." It is because of my relationship to Him as my shepherd that I can be pleasing to Him. Psalms 23 says that the Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want. John 10, Jesus said "I am the good shepherd and the shepherd gives his life for the sheep."

Aren't you glad that you are related to a good shepherd who knows what you need?

Now, I want to please God. I want my life to count, I want to do His will. This passage is saying that God is going to do it in you. And he does it, first of all, because you are related to the right person, namely the shepherd. The shepherd knows what you need and he will take care of you. God is going to see to it that you are going to praise him in your life. You are going to be pleaseing to him in your life. First of all, because you are rightly related to the shepherd. Now, if you don't belong to the shepherd, and he knows the sheep and they hear his voice, and if you are not related to him, there is no way that you can please God...

You please God, first of all, by turning <sup>your life over</sup> to the shepherd.

(2E)

And the second thing that remains me that it is only through Jesus that my life can be pleasing to God is because of his redemption which is expressed in the last phrase of Vs 20. It says, "through the blood of the eternal covenant." That is what <sup>NLT</sup> Hebrews is all about. A new covenant. It is like our word "testiment".. Remember a will to be enforce means the death of the testator...The will of God was written in the name of Jesus . When Jesus died, the death of the testator resulted in an inheritance coming to all the heirs of that will. Who are the heirs? All who accept Christ as Saviour and Lord.

And this little phrase is exciting..."the blood of the eternal covenant." You know I am in a <sup>Contract</sup> ~~contract~~ with Jesus that is going to last forever. There is nothing that can change it. Just think...Jesus has cleansed me of my sin. He has forgiven me of every sin that I have every committed, nor ever could commit.

Now, I don't care what you have done in your life. It doesn't matter what you have done. It was all paid for my Jesus Christ. And that is what makes the Gospel so fantastic. It is an eternal covenant. Nothing can change it. It is a <sup>Contract</sup> ~~contract~~ that I have with Jesus Christ. My sins have been paid for. Praise God.....

Nothing can change that. My performance, ~~what~~ you think of me, nothing can change it. Jesus died and paid for my sins. And I stand on that. Which means I have the capacity, now, to please God.

Have you every noticed that someone who is really rotten to the core gets saved, that a lot of folks who know that person have a hard time believing it...Have you ever noticed that?...

You mean John got saved?...Man, I knew ~~who~~ him and I will tell you that nothing can save him....

You know, I think that God just loves saving people like that.. I really do. What a testimony tof his power and his grace and his love. He just loves doing that.

We begin to please God when we see that it was God who saved us. As a Christian don't try somehow to please God in the energy of the flesh. It is a wast of time and it is discouraging.

Realize, just like you must believe what Jesus did at the cross, so you must believe now, that God will work in;you. Not you work for God. God working ~~in~~ in you. So THAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE PLEASEING TO HIM .

(3D) **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE BEHIND ALL OF THIS?** It is simply stated in Vs 21 He will equip you in every good thing to do his will. Do his will, that is ~~His~~ <sup>God's</sup> purpose. Godwants you ~~to~~ do his will.

**WHAT IS HIS WILL?** Well, his will is that I preaise him. His will is that I stay away from sin. His will is that I give thanks to his name. His will is that I be saved. *But we do all these things that we have been taking about, our responsibility*

Do you want your life to be his will? You must be related to the shepherd, and you must understand that God wants you to do his will. Not your will, but his will. Jesus said, "not my will but thine be done." We do ~~his~~ his will because of his work for us and in us. For us at the cross, and in us in our life right now. God's power in us doing his will.

And the results .. the phrase Vs 21 "to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.



"Amen doesn't always mean "the end." Here it is an expression of excitement. The writer is excited. Amen...Praise the Lord...Because he realized something that you and I must realize. That what has been done for us has been done by Christ at the cross, and we simply believe what he has already done. We trust Him. Not ourselves.

Therefore, if we are going to apply this message. This great doctrine of Hebrews. And we want to do what God wants us to do. What are we going to do? TRUST OURSELVES...OR...HIM WHO IS WORKING IN US...

When you get saved, you must trust what He has already done for you. Why not trust him again? DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO IN YOUR LIFE. TRUST HIM COMPLETELY.

And you know something....He will work in your life... He will even take the times you stumble and you blow it, and turn it around so that it praises his name. God is going to work in your life, if you will trust him, to bring glory to his name. He has told us so in his Word, and he is doing it in actual practice in life. And everything that has happened to you, my friend, and has happened to me, is to bring glory and praise to God, Almighty.

So, you might as well get in the swing of things and start enjoying it.

Let's pray

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(3C) Now, let's look at some of these practical suggestions - ~~Vs~~ ~~22~~

(1D) In terms of practicing what is written, Paul says: Vs 22 - "But I urge you brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly." Makes me wonder what his long letters were like.

Two things I want you to see here in this verse.

(1E) First, ~~the~~ nature of ~~what~~ he wrote. He calls it word of exhortation. The word "exhortation" means "one called along side of." The gift of counseling or exhortation is the same word. Meaning "to build up or to encourage you." Same word, when it says the Holy Spirit is your comforter.

And Paul says that this doctrine that I taught you in Hebrews is going to bring comfort to your life, and counsel and direction. It is going to build you up. So the nature of what he wrote encourages me to study it more carefully.

(2E) Then, the need for what he wrote is expressed in Vs 22 when he says, "bear with this word." What does he mean when he says to "bear with this word?" It means literally to "hold up under it." You know, some of the things he said in this book is quite heavy.. And the temptation is to go an easier road and not to bear up under it. The temptation is to run away and to ignore the Word or to say that it is for some one else.

Turn over to 2 Timothy chapter 4. What does it mean to bear with something or to hold up under doctrine of God's Word. Let me illustrate with a negative usage of the same word... In 2 Timothy 4 Paul gives some final instructions to his brother Timothy.

(read 2 Timothy 4:2-4)

Notice the time is coming when they will not endure. By the way I believe that time is here now. It is not coming, it is now. The word "endure" is the same word found in Hebrews 13:22 translated "bear with".

Paul is saying to the in Hebrews "bear with this doctrine" "hold up under this teaching." Let in Timothy Paul is warning saying that there is a day coming when people are not going to bear up under sound doctrine.

You know what they want? They want teachers who, literally, are going to effective their hearing possess. Translated very interesting as "tickled ears."

The idea is that speakers well more and more subcome to the hearing processes, only, rather than learning processes.. Entertaining people for what ever time they are seating under their teaching. Entertain their hearing process. Make it sound good so that we can be entertained for a half an hour. ~~father~~

Rather than the learning process. Of what have I actually learned and what have I actually applied.

I am very much aware that in the processes of Bible teaching that it would be a lot easier to entertain a lot more people by using another style. But you see I don't have that option or choice. Once I became committed to the Word of God I realized that this is my responsibility to teach God's Word no matter what.

And it is also the responsibility of those who listen to make sure we are "bearing with" that sound doctrine. ~~Not~~ And not becoming like those who fail to endure it anymore. And by not endure it doesn't mean simply not listening to the Word, for they are listening according to 2 Tim 4:3. They are listening, alright. But they are not bearing up under in terms of practical application.

What have we learned from our times together? And are we putting it to practice?

(2D) Back to Hebrews 13, in terms of his planning to visit them in Vs 23, He mentioned this by referring to Timothy. That is another reason why I felt that Paul wrote Hebrews. Paul had a close companionship with Timothy. Vs 23 says, "take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I shall see you."

(3D) Then, in terms of participating with one another in the work of the Lord, he does, as he so often does in his letters, he brings greetings. Vs 24, "greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you." Vs 25, "Grace be with you all."

In terms of greetings, we understand that Christians were to minister one to another. Not only by expressing an outward greeting, but, also, in meeting one another's needs.

But as to Grace, Vs 25, he says Grace be with you all. The word "grace" is not just a word for greetings. This is referring to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2 says "for by grace are you saved through faith" And that is a gift of God.

God's wonderful grace. That which he gives to us which we don't deserve  
Hebrews deals with our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. God's grace  
saves us. We didn't do anything to earn salvation.

And I ask you, ~~and~~ are you a part of that wonderful, wonderful  
grace of god?...

Do you want your life <sup>to</sup> count for him?

Do you know what God wants from you? ...

God wants you to praise him, to honor him, in all things. Whether  
you eat or drink do all to the glory of God. He wants to be first in  
your life... ~~Praise Him.~~ *Will you let Him?*

Let's close in prayer-