

# DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

## FOLLOW JESUS ALWAYS AND GIVE HIM GLORY FOREVER

➤ **READ HEBREWS 13:1-6**

**SUMMARY:** Heavenly minded Christians love those around them.

Look

- “*Have entertained angels*” (2) – Referring to Abraham in Genesis 18,19 when he was hospitable to the angels whom he didn’t know were angels

Discuss

1. What would make such an exhortation as this necessary? *(To help answer consider the temptation Christians - whose lives might not be being touched by persecution – would have as they looked at Christians whose lives were )*
2. According to verse 5, why can we be content with what we have?
3. What are the two promises in the two passages the author quotes?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 13:7,8**

**SUMMARY:** Wise is the one who stakes his or her lot with Jesus.

Discuss

4. Once again, what would make such an exhortation necessary?

Look

- “*Consider outcome of their way of life*” (7) – The encouragement is to note the blessings God promises to give.
- “*Jesus...is the same*” (8) – In this context he is saying: “The world’s policies toward Christians will shift and change, but Jesus never will. Wise is the person who stakes his or her lot with Jesus.”

➤ **READ HEBREWS 13:9-16**

**SUMMARY:** Center your worship on the sacrifice of Christ, not on human rituals.

Look

- *“Strengthened by grace” (9)* – We are strengthened by grace when we hear the gospel of God’s grace in Christ, when we go to the Lord’s Supper, and when we remember our baptisms daily.
- *“Not by ceremonial foods” (9)* – Appears to be a special food commanded under the Old Testament law
- *“Outside the camp” (11,13)* – The camp represents the place where the law is followed. While it should have been a place where people and priests rejoiced in the coming Savior, it came to be a place where legalism and work-righteousness ruled.
- *“Go to him...bearing the disgrace he bore” (13)* – To all of us who cling to the comforts and values of this world and are not inclined to cherish heavenly and eternal blessings when it involves suffering, here is a call to leave behind the comforts of “camp.” This includes a God-pleasing life and sharing in Jesus’ humiliation and suffering. This is worship that pleases God.
- *“Through Jesus” (15)* – “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Those two words, ‘through Jesus’ are words that remind us that words of praise and works of love are pleasing to God only in faith

Discuss

5. The recipients of this letter were tempted to follow teachings which were a mixture of the old and new covenants. What false “mixtures” are floating around today which seek to worm their way into our hearts?
  
6. It is easy to give a command. It is more difficult to follow the command. According to verse 9, what gives us the strength to follow the command of verse 9?
  
7. What is the meaning of verse 10?

8. Just because Christians don't offer animal sacrifices does not mean we don't sacrifice to God. What are four of those sacrifices – according to verses 15 and 16 – that we bring to God? Give a concrete example of each one.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - Example:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - Example:
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Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

➤ **READ HEBREWS 13:17-21**

**SUMMARY:** Final instructions to beloved Christians

Discuss

9. Why does a Christian submit to the authority of his or her spiritual leaders?

Look

- *“That would be of no advantage to you” (17)* – Note how the author brings out who ‘loses’ if the work of spiritual leaders is made to be difficult by certain actions

*Such responsibility challenges the shepherd, demanding that he give the best he can in every sermon and lesson, every visit and contact. Such serious responsibility also makes demands on every sheep in the flock. When the sheep follow willingly, the shepherd's task is joyful. When they balk or even disobey, the shepherd's joy turns into groaning, and forward motion for the flock slows or even stops. “That would be of no advantage to you,” the author warns the flock to which he is writing. (Hebrews People's Bible)*

- *“The God of peace”* – This is the greatest blessing we have from God – peace now and in eternity
- *“Blood of the eternal covenant”* – Jesus blood is the onetime sacrifice that gives us an anchor of hope inside the tabernacle of heaven
- *“Back from the dead”* – Because Jesus lives, we too shall live
- *“Our Lord Jesus”* – The one we worship, our Lord, is also our Savior
- *“Shepherd of the sheep”* – Our Savior is also our Shepherd
- *“Equip you”* – God himself will equip us by giving us grace to do his will
- *“Work in us”* – Are we concerned about pleasing God? God will lead us in the right direction.
- *“To whom be glory for ever and ever”* – The one we worship will be glorified by the saints and angels eternally

➤ **READ HEBREWS 13:22-25**

Look

- “*Short letter*” – Think of how much he left out. Who of us doesn’t have more questions about the meaning of the Old Testament laws?
- “*Grace*” – God’s pardon and love in Christ is all we need to stand firm to the end

**SUMMARY**

So we come to the end of a remarkable word of encouragement. It really is not such a difficult book, and its message is, in fact, quite clear and plain. Listen to Jesus, the Son. Draw near to God with confidence through Jesus, the High Priest. Endure to the heavenly home by looking up to Jesus, the pioneer and finisher of faith. Don’t conform to this world. Join the pilgrim band on the road that leads to glory. Heaven is our home!

Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity we have had to study your Word together.

**G: We ask your Holy Spirit to be present in our lives as we now put this learning into action.**

L: Be with us, we pray, so that we may always be faithful to You in every aspect of our lives.

**G: We remember all our leaders in prayer – governmental, civil, employment, and spiritual leaders.**

L: Give them all your wisdom and discernment as they guide us.

**G: Enter into the hearts of those leaders who do not know you.**

L: Also help us to remember one another in prayer. Guide us with your grace until that day when we finally see you face to face.

**G: All this we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**