

APPLYING DOCTRINE TO BETTER RELIGION (Hebrews 13:8-16)

1.The stability of Jesus (Hebrews 13:8).

- a. We often hear that in life the one constant is change.
 - i. There is an old Beatles song entitled “The Night Before”.
 - ii. There is a line that says: “‘Love was in your eyes, the night before, Now today I find, you have changed your mind’.
 - iii. That is how fast things can change.
- b. This is not so with our Lord.
 - i. Our Lord is the same forever.
 - ii. He is a gracious, loving, merciful, just Savior and will never change.
- c. The word translated same means “immutable”, which means unchangeable.
- d. Jesus is always going to be the same.
 - i. The reason for this is that He is perfect.
 - ii. You only change that which is imperfect.
 - iii. What would there be to change about One who is wholly just, loving, merciful, kind, sacrificial, and all the other good things our Lord is?
- e. Since Jesus is always going to be the same, so is His gospel.
 - i. The gospel is changeless.
 - ii. It is perfectly suited for mankind because it deals with our greatest need, the recovery from sin.
- f. Everything on earth changes that is not from Christ.
 - i. The church does not change.
 - ii. The doctrine of Christ does not change.
- g. Man comes along and tries to change things, but as long as time stands, the gospel that is ratified with the blood of Jesus will not change because our Lord is stable.

2.The soundness of His doctrine (Hebrews 13:9).

- a. Since the doctrine of Christ never changes, we know we can stay with it because it is sound.
- b. There are numbers of other doctrines that have come into existence through the years since our Lord brought in the New Covenant.
 - i. It wasn't long after the church was established that Paul had to warn Christians not to follow any other doctrine.
 - ii. Quickly, there were those who were trying to pervert the gospel and people like them have never stopped trying.
- c. Some people never get their mind fixed on the doctrine of Christ and they switch back and forth on their beliefs.
 - i. I remember br. Cates talking about men he had known that were never grounded and went from one doctrinal belief to another.
 - ii. He said they were like fleas that jumped from one place to another.
- d. Instead of jumping around, let your heart be fixed in place on the gospel of grace instead of on trappings of the Mosaic Law.
 - i. Stay with the gospel instead of sacrifices made on the Jewish altar.
 - ii. Those things no longer profited.
- e. For us, we need to remain in the gospel instead of going to anything man has devised.

- i. Those that walk in areas that are not taught by the gospel of grace are not profited spiritually.
 - ii. Nothing apart from the stability of Jesus benefits.
 - iii. This is why people change so often.
 - iv. They are looking for something that is profitable and they can't find it anywhere except in Christ so they keep looking and keep changing things.
- f. There is soundness in the doctrine of Christ because it is based on the stability of Christ, which is the case because of His being perfect.

3. The superiority of His sacrifice (Hebrews 13:10-12).

- a. The writer says that we have an altar.
 - i. Clarke, along with others, wrote that the altar is stated in place of the sacrifice.
 - ii. Our altar, the Christian's altar, is the Christ, Who is our sacrifice.
- b. Our writer takes an inspired jab at Judaism.
 - i. Under Mosaic Law, not everyone could eat of the meat sacrificed to God.
 - ii. Only priests could eat this sacrifice.
 - iii. The writer says that they had an altar, or sacrifice, from which those that follow the Mosaic Law could not eat.
- c. You and I have an altar, or sacrifice, of which those who follow some other doctrine have no right to partake.
 - i. In the mind of the original readers this would be a reference to Judaism.
 - ii. To us, this is to all those who fail to follow the sound doctrines of Christ.
- d. Our writer then goes to a description of what took place on the Day of Atonement.
 - i. This shows that the sacrifice made on that day typified the coming sacrifice of Christ on the cross.
 - ii. On the Day of Atonement, the blood of the animal was brought inside the tabernacle but the body of the animal was taken outside the gates.
- e. The idea is that Jesus died outside the gate but His blood went into the heavenly tabernacle, like the animal was taken outside the gate but his blood was taken into the earthly tabernacle
- f. The blood offered on the Day of Atonement only rolled forward the sins of the people, ever reminding them of their sin.
- g. The superior sacrifice of Jesus sanctified the people, us, to remove us from the world and into His kingdom.
- h. Animal sacrifices couldn't do this, as our writer has pointed out several times.
 - i. The sacrifice of Christ is better than any animal offered under the Old Law.
 - ii. His blood removes sin while those sacrifices simply rolled them forward.
- i. Our Lord needs to be followed because His sacrifice is far superior to that which was offered under Moses' Law.

4. The separation from the world (Hebrews 13:13-14).

- a. To have a better religion based on the doctrine our writer has given should lead us to be separate from the world.
- b. Those to whom it was originally written did this by completely cutting ties with

Judaism and bearing any reproach that might come for wearing the name of Christ.

- i. We know they endured vicious attacks.
 - ii. Saul of Tarsus killed and imprisoned Jewish Christians.
 - iii. Rome targeted Christians.
- c. We do that today by putting off worldliness and man-made teaching and follow our Lord and His doctrine.
- i. We bear the reproach of Christ.
 - ii. We endure the name calling or whatever may come our way because of far superior sacrifice and His command to be separate.
- d. There is a motivation to do this though, and that is the fact that we know we are pilgrims here, looking for the city to come.
- i. The cities in which we live are not going to last.
 - ii. This is the meaning of the word “continuing”.
- e. Our writer earlier told his readers to look to those great men and women of faith who looked for a city whose builder and maker was God.
- i. This is what he is now telling them to do.
 - ii. Realize that heaven is waiting and this world is not our home.

5. The satisfaction of God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

- a. Because of all that, let us seek to satisfy God through offering to God the worship He deserves through Christ.
- i. We sing songs to praise Him and use our words to praise Him.
 - ii. We give Him thanks for all that He has done for us.
- b. Not only that, we do good to others and give of our means to help others.
- i. The word translated “communicate” indicates a contribution given as a sign of fellowship.
 - ii. When we give of our means we are in fellowship with one another.
- c. When we live in this manner, God is pleased or satisfied with our actions.
- d. Notice that God understands that it is a sacrifice for us.
- i. He knows that it costs us to do these things.
 - ii. It was costing those Hebrew Christians.
 - iii. It may cost us like it did them but it still costs for us to do these things.
- e. We want to do them because Christ is superior and we want to make sure to do those things that bring satisfaction to God.

Part of this outline came from a manuscript by Joey Davis in “Studies In Hebrews” from the Schertz Lectureship book.