

March 15, 2009

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Hebrews 13:5-6

“Persevering Love, Part Four”

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His PERSON 1-7
- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His WORK (8:1-10:18)
- III. Christianity: An Infinitely Better WALK OF FAITH 10:19-13:24
 - A. The Confidence of Faith (10:19-39)
 - B. The Examples of Faith (11) – FAITH
 - C. The Race of Faith (12) – HOPE
 - D. The Out-Workings of Faith (13) – LOVE
 - 1. Persevering Love in the Social Realm (13:1-6)
 - a. Saints – v. 1 – Philadelphia (brother love; affection; “like” them)
 - b. Strangers – v. 2
 - c. Sympathy – v. 3
 - d. Spouse – v. 4
 - e. Not S_____ / _____ - v. 5a-b

- f. The S_____ - v. 5c-6

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “greed”? What part do you think “greed” has played in our current economic crisis in America (and around the world)? Give examples.
2. What are some lies the world, flesh & devil tell us about money and material possessions?
3. What is at the root of greed according to Col. 3:5? What part is greed supposed to play in the life / lifestyle of a believer?
4. Why are people so prone to spend money they don’t have (going into debt)? What is at the root of this? What does James 1:13-15 say about where this problem originates? If we don’t stop it at the origin what can it lead to? (See also James 4:1-4)
5. Why do some people hoard money? What problem may be at the root of this? What does Mt. 6:25-34 say about this issue?
6. According to 1 Tim. 6:9-10 what can happen to people who want to get rich? What do these other passages say about the battle between riches and faith? Mt. 6:19-24; Mt. 13:22; Lk. 12:13-21. Why does Matthew talk a bad “eye”? What does this have to do with being mastered by money?
7. Some people are so desperate to have pleasure and/or security that they will resort to STEALING from others. But when someone comes to genuine faith in Christ they are to repent and live differently. What should characterize a believer’s handling of money according to Mt. 6:19-21; Acts 20:31-35; and Eph. 4:28? Does your expense account demonstrate a lifestyle of faithful giving?
8. Why does Heb. 13:5 emphasize what God has “said”? How does knowing what God has “said” help us when we are struggling with lust, fear, or greed? (Ps. 19:9, 11; Rom. 10:17)
9. Hebrews 13:5 emphasizes that the Lord will never desert (leave) us or forsake us. Why would times of financial instability make us believe that He has deserted us? Where do thoughts like this come from? Are they biblical thoughts? How strongly does the author of Hebrews address these erroneous thoughts in v. 5? Do you believe it?
10. Can “man” do bad things to us? What bad things had men already done to the believers in the first century (see Heb. 10:32-34)? If bad men can do horrible things to us, our families, our properties, etc., then what is the point of Heb. 13:6? How does faith in Jesus give me calm & confidence when everything around me is being taken away?
11. According to Heb. 13:6, how does faith in what our Savior has promised us impact us emotionally? Are you experiencing that in our current economic situation? If not, what does this say about what you truly believe?
12. How relevant is this passage for our world today? What are you going to do this week to get this message of faith, hope and love to people in the world around you?
13. Are you characterized by contentment? Are you living on a budget? Are you tithing to your local church and giving beyond that to world missions? If not, sign up for a CROWN Ministries class and grow in these areas for the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

[Outline blanks: **Silver** / **Stuff**; **Savior**]