

March 22, 2009

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Hebrews 13:5-6

“Persevering Love, Part Five”

- 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 Silver / Not Stuff - v. 5a-b

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

Discussion Questions:

1. Statistics say the average Evangelical Christian in America gives 1.6% of his income to “charitable organizations” (that is ALL charitable giving, not just to their local church). That is 1/6 of a “tithe” as prescribed (and described) in Scripture (Lev. 27:30-33; Num. 18:8-28; Deut. 12:18; Neh. 13:10; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:8-12). Many say a “tithe” is not for today because it was Old Testament Law. But the “tithe” pre-dated Mosaic Law (Gen. 14:18-20 – Abraham giving to Melchizedek) and in the opinion of this author is still normative for today (Heb. 7 – Jesus is our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek and wants us to give to Him through His Bride, the local church). What happened to the nation of Israel when they failed to give their tithes to God in the Old Testament (see Mal. 3:8-12)?
2. In Haggai 1 the Temple needed to be rebuilt. But the economy was very challenging and the people were too consumed with their own houses to contribute to the needs of the Temple. God challenges them to “consider their ways” (v. 5, 7). According to v. 7-11, what was the problem with their economy? What was the response of the people in v. 12? What was God’s response in v. 13? Does Mt. 6:33 shed any light on this concept?
3. 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)
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. According to Heb. 13:6, how does faith in what our Savior has promised us impact us emotionally? Are you experiencing that in your current economic situation? If not, what does that say about what you truly believe?
7. 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?
8. 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!