

**The Book of Hebrews
Session Twelve
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**Class Abundant Sharing:
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“Our God is a consuming fire” – figures of speech *metonymy* and *gnome*. Deuteronomy 4:24 in context; I Corinthians 3:8-17. Rewards mentioned in Hebrews 6:10,11; 10:34,35; 11:6,26. Jesus prophetically tied the destruction of Jerusalem directly to the rejection of the Messiah, Luke 19:43, 21:5,6.

Chapter 13

Verse 1 – “brotherly love” – *philadelphia* – the affectionate regard of members of a family; love for the brethren.

Verse 2 – “entertain” – show hospitality. Romans 12:13 – “given to hospitality”.

Verse 3 – if “the body” refers to the Church, then it is the only mention of the Body of Christ in Hebrews. I Corinthians 12:26, Romans 12:5 – members one of another. Most translations handle it “a body” referring to you being human and in the world as well as those suffering adversity.

Verse 4 – “Let marriage be honorable in all.” – an exhortation. “honorable” – held as of great price, esteemed, especially dear. “bed” – *koite*, a lying, the marriage bed. “undefiled” – unstained, unsoiled. “whoremongers” – fornicators, referring to illicit sex prior to marriage. “adulterers” – illicit sex outside of marriage.

Verse 5 – “conversation” – manner or way of life, behavior. “covetousness” – to be fond of silver, money loving. I Timothy 6:10 – the root of all evil. Ecclesiastes 5:10, Psalm 107:9. “never” – never, never. “nor” – never, never, not ever.

Verse 6 – A quote from Psalm 118:6. “helper” – succourer, translated “on my side” in Psalms.

Verse 7 – “remember” – be mindful of. “them” – refers to leadership in the Church. “spoken unto you the Word of God” – primary responsibility of Church leaders: Romans 13:1-5, I Timothy 4:6, II Timothy 2:2, 4:2. “faith” – believing. “follow” – imitate. “end” – outcome, which could refer to some having died, being martyred. “conversation” – verse 5, manner of life.

Verse 8 – What Jesus was yesterday, he is today and will be forever – the Messiah.

Verse 9 – “Be not carried about” – in the present tense, indicating a present and active danger. “Stop being carried away!” as some were. “divers” – varied, manifold, changing colors. “strange” – not of ones family, thus foreign; outlandish.

“doctrines” – teachings. “heart” – the innermost part of your being. “grace” – opposite of the law and of works. The Grace Administration. “meats” – referring to the system of legalistic observances. Colossians 2:16. External rituals verses the internal conscience of the heart. “Those whose lives are guided by such regulations have not found them of service.” (Twentieth Century New Testament.)

Verse 10 – “an altar” – referring to the focal point: Jesus Christ’s sacrifice in accomplishing our redemption. A spiritual altar, not a literal one. “they” – the Levitical priests. “no right” – because of continuing the law, not believing concerning Christ. Compare I Corinthians 9:13. Practitioners of the Old Covenant have no part - cannot partake or “eat” – in the blessings of the New.

Verse 11 – an illustration from the Day of Atonement. Neither the people nor the priests were allowed to eat of the sacrifices on that Day. Those animals were burned outside the Camp.

Verse 12 – In a similar fashion, Jesus Christ was sacrificed “without the gate.” The Day of Atonement and the red heifer offering foreshadows that location.

Verse 13 – “go forth” – go out of. “bearing his reproach” – I John 3:1; I Peter 4:14; Romans 8:17,18. Some were being persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ and not practicing the law.

Verse 14 – This world is not our home! We seek the heavenly Jerusalem.

Verses 15, 16 – Romans 12:1 – “living sacrifices.” Continual praise and giving thanks certainly includes speaking in tongues.

Verse 17 – “Obey” – to persuade, to win by words. “submit” – to cease fighting, to yield. Leaders are to “watch for” the saints’ lives and are responsible before God – “will give account” – at the *bema*. Make their work a joy and not a burden or grievous. That would be worse for you.

Verse 18 – a request for prayer. “us...we...we” – who?

Verse 19 – “I” – who? “restored” – to put back into a former state, to be reinstated. Reinstated to what?

Verse 20 – Jesus Christ is the:

“good shepherd” in John 10:11, who “gives his life for the sheep.”

“great shepherd” in Hebrews 13:20, who is “brought again from the dead.”

“chief shepherd” in I Peter 5:4, who “shall appear” to gather the Church.

Acts 17:3,7 – Paul’s manner was to preach the suffering, risen and returning Messiah. “the everlasting Covenant” – the New Covenant in Christ’s blood lasts forever.

Verse 21 – “perfect” – *katartizo*, fully-equipped for service. God works “in you” via the Word and the spirit. I Thessalonians 2:13; Philippians 2:13.

Verses 22-24 – The writer of Hebrews is a close associate of Timothy, is in Italy and asks to be restored to them. I & II Peter are addressed to “strangers scattered abroad” – dispersed born-again Jews. I Peter 1:2. II Peter is tied to the same address as I Peter in II Peter 3:1 – “This second Epistle, beloved, I now write unto you...” II Peter 3:15, 16, strictly interpreted, proves Paul wrote a letter to the Hebrews. II Peter 3:18 – “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Verse 25 – The book of Hebrews is God’s attempt to mend the huge schism in the First Century Church between those of a Hebrew background and those of a Gentile background. It is designed to bring God’s people out of the Old Covenant into the New – to get out of the Law Administration into the Grace Administration – and to serve as a bridge to the revelation of the Seven Church Epistles.

The New Coveant in Christ’s blood is superior to the Old Coveant in animals’ blood.