

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



16. Remember and Guard

(Leader's Notes)

Introduction

When we write a letter, we begin by addressing the person or people we are writing to, and then close with a greeting. The Book of Hebrews is a letter written to Jewish Christians, but we are not told whom it is written by. Many believe it was Barnabas, the man who travelled with the Apostle Paul. Unlike Paul's letters though, this letter does not begin by addressing the readers, but it does end the same way as other letters, with things the author wants his readers to remember, a prayer request and a final greeting. In this study we will look at the first part of the closing chapter of the Book.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:1-17

1. Things to Remember

In the first part of this chapter the author reminds these Christians about their attitudes and relationship with others. It is a good reminder to us as well.

- ❖ How are we to demonstrate our love to others according to v1 and v16?
(By treating them as brothers, by doing good and sharing with them.)
- ❖ One way we are to love others is by entertaining strangers. Often we are cautious about doing that. How does v2 encourage us? Can you think of anyone in the Word of God who has entertained angels without realizing who they were?
(There have been times when men have entertained angels. This happened in the life of Abraham and Gideon. We are told that this should encourage us to welcome strangers. It does not mean being unwise however. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for discernment. Both Abraham and Gideon sensed that the stranger who came was from God.)
- ❖ Another group of people we are to remember are those in prison. What attitude should we have towards them? What can we do to remember them? V3 and Hebrews 10:34
(We are to sympathize with those who suffer for their faith and remember them as if we were in prison with them. Don't forget to pray for them.)
- ❖ What were the believers to learn from the leaders in v7-8? Also see Hebrews 6:12
(They were to see how the leader's faith had made a difference in their lives and follow their example.)

Share

Can you think of a leader who has been a real example in your life? Tell us about that person and what you would like to imitate.

- ❖ Again in v17 it mentions these leaders. What responsibility do leaders have? Why do you think the author says it is a disadvantage to us if we do not obey our leaders? Discuss.
(The leader's responsibility was to keep watch over their members.)

2. Areas to Guard

In the verses we have looked at the author reminds us to keep on loving others. He specifically mentions strangers and those in prison. At the same time he warns us to guard certain areas of our lives.

- ❖ The first area we are to guard is marriage. Why is everyone to honour marriage? V4. Malachi 2:14-16
(Marriage is a covenant made before others, and above all before God. A husband and wife become one in spirit and flesh. It is a serious thing when this covenant is broken, and God says that he is the witness and judge. Those who are married need to guard their marriage relationship, and those who are single are to make sure they are never responsible for causing someone's marriage to be broken.)
- ❖ The second area we are to guard is our attitude to money. How do the promises that are quoted in v5-6 encourage us to be content with what we have?
(The most wonderful thing is to have the Lord with us. If we understand this we will be content. Not only this, we will have the assurance that he will meet all our needs. The first promise here is from Deuteronomy 31:6, where the Lord is assuring his people that he will bring them into the Promised Land, thus meeting all their needs. We too have the promise that he will meet our needs, and we never need to be afraid for he is with us and will help us.)
- ❖ A third area we are to guard is mentioned in v9-10. What is it? What strange teachings do we need to guard ourselves against today?
(We need to guard ourselves against strange teachings.)

Consider

In this study we have looked at many different areas of our lives. Which area is God speaking to you about?

Conclusion

The Book of Hebrews contains some of the most wonderful truths about Jesus as our High Priest. However just knowing these truths is not enough! They need to change our lives and the way we live. This is why the author of the book closes by reminding the readers to live out the things they have learned in their everyday life. We need to do that too.