

# THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



## 17. Closing Comments

*(Leader's Notes)*

### Introduction

We have come to the final study on the Book of Hebrews. It was originally written as a letter to Jewish believers, who were being tempted to give up their faith in Jesus. The writer shows them how Jesus is superior to all others, including the angels, Moses and Aaron, who was the High Priest. Jesus has come as our great High Priest, and the covenant he introduced was greater than that in the Old Testament. He urges these Christians not to give up, but follow the example of men and women of faith. In these last verses he reminds them again of these truths, asks for prayer, and closes with a word of blessing.

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 13:11-25

### 1. A Summary Hebrews 13:11-17

- ❖ Look at Leviticus 4:3-6, 11-12, 13, 21, to see the background of these verses. Compare what the High Priest did with the sin offering, to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.  
*(The High Priest took the blood from the sin offering and sprinkled it on the Most Holy Place. This was pointing towards Jesus, who would die and his blood would be sprinkled in the Most Holy Place in Heaven. Then the High Priest would take the carcass of the animal outside the camp and burn it. In the same way Jesus was taken outside the gate of Jerusalem to die.)*
- ❖ What should our response be to the great sacrifice of Jesus? V13-17
  - (1. *We should be willing to be mocked, embarrassed or shamed because we belong to Jesus. This is what he was willing to do for us.*
  - (2. *We should continually offer our praise to God.*
  - (3. *We should do good to others.*
  - (4. *We should obey our leaders.*)

#### **Discuss**

Notice that we are to bring our 'sacrifices' to Jesus. When can our actions truly be described as 'sacrifices' do you think? Discuss. V15-16

One of the themes of this book is how Jesus became our High Priest and the sacrifice for our sin. Our response to what he has done is to offer our sacrifices to him. Sacrifices are costly. Are we willing to respond to what he has done for us, by giving to him what is costly to us?

### 2. A Prayer Request Hebrews 13:18-19

- ❖ What does the writer request the readers to pray for?  
*(To pray that he would be restored to his readers. i.e. That he would be able to visit them.)*
- ❖ Why do you think it is good to be specific when we ask someone to pray for us? For other examples of

specific prayer requests see Ephesians 6:19 and Colossians 4:3-4.

(1. *It is easier for others to pray for us when we give specific requests.*

(2. *In God's Word it teaches us to be specific – 'you do not have because you do not ask.'*

(3. *When God answers our prayer we can clearly see that he has, when we have prayed specifically.)*

Often we ask people to pray for us and it is good to do so. By doing this we are acknowledging our dependence on God. However we need to learn from the examples in the Word of God to be specific in our requests and prayer. Then we will prove that God promise is true, that 'whatever we ask for in prayer, we will receive.'

### 3. A Blessing      Hebrews 13:20-25

After asking for prayer, now the writer prays for his readers and draws his letter to a close. This prayer is often used as a benediction today. It is a beautiful word of blessing.

❖ What can you learn from this prayer in verses 20 to 22? Share your thoughts.

#### Consider

Part of this prayer is that Jesus will work in us what is pleasing to God. What area in your life do you want him to work in right now?

### Conclusion

We have come to the end of the Book of Hebrews! At times it may have seemed to be 'heavy going', but we have come to know Jesus more. He is the One who is over God's House, the One who is High Priest, and the One who is the Great Shepherd of the sheep. There are times when it is costly to follow him, but our faith will be richly rewarded.