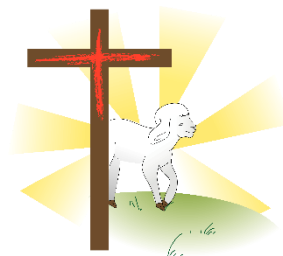


THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



17. Closing Comments

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.
- ❖ What should our response be to the great sacrifice of Jesus? V13-17

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?
- ❖ 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.

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.