

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Real Leadership"
Hebrews 13:17-19
Study-35

2 Timothy 3:1-5

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Hebrews' Purpose – Move The Believers On To Maturity, To Grow Up, Through presenting A Superior Person, Jesus Christ: Hebrews 6:1.

Hebrews 11-13 – A Superior Principle – Faith

Hebrews 11 – Faith: Great examples of faith

Hebrews 12 – Hope: Encouragements to faith

Hebrews 13 – Love: The evidences of faith that should appear in our lives

The Thought Of Our Passage: "Obey And Submit To Spiritual Leaders Who Watch Over Our Souls, Who Will Give An Account To God."

1. Verse 17 – Spiritual Leadership

2. Verse 17 – Accountable Leadership

3. Verses 18-19 – Prayerful Leadership

1. Verse 17 – Spiritual Leadership:

Hebrews 13:17

Hebrews 13:8-16 – Real Wisdom; Verses 15-16 – Wisdom Through Worship.

Hebrews 13:15-16

"Obey your leaders" – The context is worship, now obedience. Worship and obedience are inseparable.

1 John warns about saying one thing but doing another: 1 John 1:6,8,10.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 – God's Priority Of Obedience Over Sacrifice.

Sincere Obedience Is The Precondition For Pleasing Service To God! – "to obey is better than sacrifice,"

1 Samuel 15:23

All Conscious Disobedience Is Essentially An Act Of Idolatry: "And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry."

"Leaders" – 3X In this chapter the author stresses Leaders – Hebrews 13:7 "Remember those who led you,"; Hebrews 13:17 – "Obey your leaders and submit to them,"; Hebrews 13:24 – "Greet all of your leaders and all the saints."

Directed Obedience: Obey – "assenting to another's direction"

Hebrews 13:9

1 John 4:1

What good are good spiritual leaders if their teaching is not obeyed or put into practice? James 1:22

"leaders" – are called by God. Hebrews 5:4

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Respectful Submission: "and submit to them," – "yielding one's self to another to resist no longer, but to give way." There must be voluntary subordination, joined by a desire to do what the leaders suggest.

Why Should We Obey And Submit To Spiritual Leadership?

Pastors Have A Divine Responsibility To Watch Over The Congregation: "for they keep watch over your souls"

Loving Cooperation: "keep watch" – used of a watchman on duty in the city; "wakefulness and alertness"; used of OT Prophets; Shepherds must remain awake and alert to care for the feeblest sheep.

Used of watchmen that have lost sleep over their guarding of the city.

"over your souls" – Mark 8:36

2. Verse 17 – Accountable Leadership:

Hebrews 13:17

Pastors Will Give An Account Of Their Stewardship: "as those who will give an account."

Note that those who exercise authority must also accept responsibility for their actions! James 3:1; Romans 14:12.

Pastor – The Care Of The Flock – Ephesians 4:11

Teacher – The Teaching Of The Flock – Giving spiritual food; “The Message Of The Bible Is In The Bible!”

1 Peter 5:2-3

2 Corinthians 12:15

Pastoral Ministry Should Be With Joy Not With Grief: “Let them do this with joy and not with grief,”

3 John 4

There Are 2 Options: “Let them do this with joy and not with grief,”

1. “Let them do this with joy” – Philippians 4:1

2. “and not with grief” – “groaning”

Disobedience Is Actually “Unprofitable” For Rebels: “for this would be unprofitable for you.” – The term “unprofitable” is composed of three concepts: “not” and “loose” and “tax”. “A rebel does not get away with his insubordination even though he does not pay his obligation to his human leader. He is not loosed from his spiritual tax toward God. God will require it of him, either in this life or at the judgment seat.”

1 Timothy 5:24

2 Corinthians 5:10

“judgment seat” – Greek word Bema –It was a judge’s seat where the judges of the Olympics would give out rewards. The Judgment Seat Of Christ Is For Christians Only!

Romans 14:10-12

3. Verses 18-19 – Prayerful Leadership:

Hebrews 13:18

Verse 18 – Prayer For Integrity: “Pray for us,”

Writer was convinced that he had a “good conscience” before God and men: “for we are sure that we have a good conscience,”

2 Corinthians 1:12

2 Corinthians 4:2

Writer's Desire To Live Honorably: (Sincere In Conduct) "desiring to conduct ourselves honorably"

Writer Had A Submissive Will: "in all things."

Hebrews 13:19

Verse 19 – Prayer For Restoration: "And I urge you all the more to do this,"
– "more exceedingly".

"I may be restored to you the sooner." – The writer believed in prayer!

Application:

Why Should Christians Obey And Submit To Their Spiritual Leaders?

1. God Has Appointed Leaders Who Are Fulfilling The High Charge Of Watching Over Their Congregation's Souls.
2. Spiritual Leaders Must Answer To God At The Judgment Seat For Their Work.
3. Believer's Obedience Will Bring Joy Instead Of Pain.
4. Prayer Will Empower Us To Do What God Has Commanded Us.