

Outcast

Harmony M.B.C., September 13, 2009 (Morning)
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Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Heb 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

The large scale movement toward a unified and global religious experience today is becoming ever more popular. I read this week where a large segment of Jewish worshipers in the Northeast are going to celebrate Ramadan with a bunch of Muslims (apparently centered in Connecticut). I brought you an article last week which highlighted a big Christian participation in Ramadan, led by a notable national “Christian” preacher. We have also learned this week (I have brought copies of the announcement) that thousands of Muslims are being allowed to assemble on Capitol Hill on September 25th to have a national day of Islamic prayer. We need to also mention the huge groundswell of ecumenism going on between Protestants, Baptists, and Catholics in which everybody is joining hands to worship God together.

Amidst all this, the Lord has given me a message this morning that I believe He intends for us to warn true believers away from such open fellow shipping with such a diversity of religious doctrines. This message points us back to the true characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ as the anchor point for what we believe and how we practice and share it. May God the Holy Spirit help us this morning to get a clear understanding of what it means to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in the way that He established it.

I. The Example Set By Our Savior - v.12

- This verse speaks in symbolism about Christ’s complete rejection by the society of men
 - > Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
 - > John 16:32 **Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.**
 - > Mar 14:50 And they all forsook him, and fled.

- This utter rejection of our Lord came as a result of the outstanding features of His ministry; which were:
 - > No compromise with false or erroneous religious principles or the people who advocated them
 - See Mat. 23:13-33

- Condemns: their perverted version of sacerdotalism (the doctrine that a priest can act as a mediator between God and men) v.13
 - their commercialized religious practices (having widows pay for intervening prayers - today we might call these “indulgences”) v.14
 - their making disciples who are worse than themselves in their perversions v.15
 - their profaning of holy things and exalting material things vv.16-22
 - their exalting insignificant things and making significant things of no value vv.23-24
 - their bare hypocrisy exhibited by their ceremonialism (outside of platter clean; inside filthy - outside of sepulchers kept clean and white; inside full of dead men’s bones) vv.25-28
 - their pretense of being gracious, merciful, and understanding while they are none of these things vv.29-31
- > No compromise or soft-pedaling of the principles of God
 - John 4:34 “...**My meat is to do the will of him that sent me....**”.
 - John 8:28: “...**but as my Father hath taught me, I speak** these things.”
 - John 8:38 “**I speak that which I have seen with my Father....**”
 - > No shirking of the awesome responsibility of His mission
 - John 4:34 “...**My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**”
 - Luke 12:50 **But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!**
 - In His great trial of soul as the time of the cross approached, He was steadfast as he moved into those trials. He says in John 12:27 **Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.**
 - > No politicking
 - One of the best examples of Christ’s unrelenting ability to be without guile, without craftiness, without deception, and without compromise is seen in His interview with Pilate:
 - John 19:9-11 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, **Thou couldst have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.**

II. The Charge To Us (V. 13) “Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.”

- Inside the camp represents (symbolically) established religion
 - > You will never be popularized by mainstream religion
 - > Your doctrine will never be accepted and published by mainstream religion
 - > Your objectives will never be the objectives of mainstream religion

- > The Savior you witness about will never be the Savior of mainstream religion
- > The call to us is to take our place right where Jesus did regarding the world, or beliefs, and our message

III. The Motive or Incentive For Emulating Our Savior V.14 - “For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”

- Our time here is just a camping trip
 - > Heb. 11:9 By faith he (Abraham; father of the faithful) sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
 - > Our eyes are set on the distant hill of Zion
 - Heb. 11:10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
 - Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - 2Peter 3:12-13 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

IV. The Manifestation of Our Commitment V.15 - “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

- The proof of our commitment, to being as He was, (with our own lives) is the sacrifice of praise
 - > Praise makes others know that we are not ashamed of our Savior’s meek and lowly demeanor that He exhibited here on earth
 - > Praise of the attributes of our Savior also tells others that we think His way of doing things is remarkable, commendable, admirable, and worthy to be copied and broadcast.
 - > That sacrifice of praise is clearly defined as the **fruit of our lips giving thanks** to His name