

13 – “Practical Christianity” // Hebrews 13:1–25 // *Christ is Better*

CITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Alright. Get your Bibles. Let’s go. We’ve got a lot of ground to cover.

Our last week in the book of Hebrews (

thought you’d be a little more disappointed than that). Hebrews 13, the final chapter, is a laundry list of things the writer wants us to do. His parting shots.

- **It’s very rapid fire** (in fact, I’m a little worried this sermon is going to feel disjointed... all over the place...) But that is the way it is written.
- *And I want to end Hebrews the way he does*, covering each of these things he thinks is important to maintaining a vibrant walk of faith.
- Jonathan Edwards, as a young man, made *70 Resolutions* that would govern his life. I would suggest to you that Hebrews 12–13 be yours.

It is really practical advice... When I was a young college student I had a chance to preach at this little tiny congregation and I was preaching about loving our enemies... “How many of you have a hard time forgiving your enemies?” All raised their hands but one little old lady. “Ma’am, do you not have a hard time forgiving your enemies?” She said, very sweetly, “I don’t have any enemies.” He said, “How old are you?” “93,” she said. I thought, “Wow, this is great. This is a chance for some really practical advice.” I said,

“How is it that a person can live 93 years and not have a single enemy in the world?” She said, “I out-lived all those old hags.”¹

But this really is practical advice.

One important thing I do want to point out: *these are commands...* but notice the last verses of Hebrews 12,

“Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28

In the original writing of this, there was no chapter break, so chapter 13 flowed right out of that statement—so that the instructions he gives you are *how* we worship God with reverence and awe.

This is all supposed to be a response of worship. Christian living is always in response to something. You worship something when you are amazed by it, overwhelmed by it. Little Gabby Douglas does her perfect floor routine and you want to stand up and cheer. That’s a mild form of worship. It’s not something you were forced to do; you wanted to do it.

- Understanding the gospel fills you with a sense of wonder and worship that makes you want to obey God.
- *The commands of God are like railroad tracks that point you in the direction to go*, but the gospel is the only engine that can move you along the tracks.
- *If you don’t understand the gospel, or you’re not enraptured by it*, then these things I tell you to day will be very difficult for you.
- The way you gain the power to do them is by better knowing the gospel. Like a friend of mine says it, ***“The fire to do in the Christian life comes only from being soaked in the fuel of what has been done.”***

¹ This did not really happen to me (smile).

I. Practice hospitality (13:1-3)

[1] Let brotherly love continue. [2] Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,

- In Greek there's a play on words you miss in English: "Let *phila-delphia* (brotherly love) continue; do not neglect to *philo-xenia* (show love to strangers).
- He's talking about a love that starts *in* the church and overflows outside the church, into the streets.
 - It's not just a love in the church, as in it's about us 4 and no more
 - But nor is it a love we show to outsiders while taking for granted our brothers and sisters. (being uncomfortable when guy was teaching contra to this; everybody is squirming... I don't think you're allowed to do that with the Bible)
- **This kind of love was a distinctive of the early church, and it's been the mark of a Spirit-filled church in every generation. Emperor Julian (a persecutor of Christians), said in complaint in his famous letter to Arsacius, "Nothing has contributed to the progress of the superstition of the Christians as their charity to strangers... these godless Galileans provide for not only their own poor but ours as well."**²
- You show me a place where the gospel is really at work and I'll show you a place characterized by a graciousness, a patience, and love both for those on the inside and on the outside.

...for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- There are at least 2 stories in the Bible where we know this happened:
 - **Genesis 18**, Abraham was visited by 3 men in Gen 18. Abraham shows them hospitality. 2 of them turn out to be angels and one of them turns out to be Jesus.

² <http://www.thenagain.info/Classes/Sources/Julian.html>;
<http://hfiny.org/mediafiles/wholistic-ministry.pdf>

- The other one is in **Luke 24**. "Hang with us."
- The author is not saying this happens all the time, he's saying, "You just never know."
- The New Testament scholar Bill Lane says that the author's real point here is that showing hospitality is kind of a sacrament, meaning that by doing it with others you are doing it directly to Jesus.
 - Jesus had said (**Matthew 25**) that on the last day he will look at some in the church and say, "When I was in prison, you visited *me*. When I was naked you clothed *me*. When I was hungry you fed *me*." And the people he's talking to are like, "Uhh... I don't really remember that exactly? I don't remember you showing up asking for a Spicy Chicken sandwich and a Coke. I think I would have remembered that." And he says, "*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*" (Matthew 25:40).
 - I think that is the same point being reinforced there in vs. 2: showing hospitality is a way of responding directly to Jesus.

[3] Remember those who are in prison (brothers and sisters in Christ who are there for persecution), *as though in prison with them,*

- Notice here, this is not "charity" where you give money to them, but you take their pain upon yourself like you were in prison with them.

and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

- Feel the pain of those mistreated *as if it were our own body!*
 - If your arm is on fire your brain doesn't look at and say, "Wow... that's too bad... I bet that hurts. Well, good luck, arm." It says, "*We're on fire!*"
- That's how we are to feel about other suffering members of the church, especially those imprisoned for their faith.
 - The World Evangelical Alliance reports that 200 million Christians are currently being persecuted in 131 of the

world's 193 countries (persecution being defined as being denied basic human rights), and about 176,000 were killed last year.³

- In 2010 80% of all religious violence in the world was carried out against Christians.
- Some of these affect us very personally... *SE Asian brothers and sisters.*
 - Pulled out of house church
 - Poured gas on them
 - Police rescued. Finally admitted they had no reason to hold them.
 - This is somebody's mom and dad; part of your body!
- We are to feel it... not turn a deaf ear toward it. By the way, they were released this week!
- Best way I can describe it is how I feel about my kids...

Here's the thing: our belief in the gospel is demonstrated by our hospitality.

- Because our salvation was, in a sense, God's hospitality to us. When God saved Israel, this is what He said: **Deut. 10:17-19**, "*God executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and loves the stranger, providing him with food and clothing...therefore you must love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*" Israel was the outcast, and God took them in.
- And we with Jesus. He took us in, at the cost of his own blood.
- So of course we spend our resources on the outsider. We turn strangers into guests and friends and ultimately brothers and sisters because that's what he did for us!
- It's a way of saying thank you to Jesus directly.

- *One of my favorite stories from David's life no one ever preaches on... I didn't when I did the series on David last year—***Mephibosheth**
- ***Summit: This ought to be one of the things most distinctive about us.***
 - **Illustration:** Tony Campolo was in Hawaii and had jet lag late at night. It was 3:00 in the morning and he was hungry so he went for a walk and the only thing he could find open was a late night restaurant/bar. So he sits down and overhears two prostitutes talking in the booth next to him. One complained about her birthday the next day. She had never celebrated. Tony decided to throw a party for her on the next night with all her friends. The next night they have the party and the prostitute is overwhelmed.... She said, "No one has ever made me a cake before. She asks if cannot cut it but take it home. She gets so overwhelmed that she wants to call a friend. While she's out Tony asks that everyone pray for her. The bartender says, 'I didn't know you were a preacher. What church do you belong to?' Tony says, "The kind that throws b-day parties for prostitutes at 3:30am." The bartender says, 'No you don't. There is not a church like that. If there were, I'd join it.
- ***Our hospitality is probably our most persuasive apologetic!***

Application:

- So can I give you a very clear, easy application step? Get in a small group.
 - That's where you start to practice hospitality with one another.
 - The small group is also the way we mobilize to minister to the city.

³ Reported in David Aikman, "The Worldwide Attack on Christians" *Commentary*, February 2012.

<http://persecutedchurch.blogspot.com/2009/04/limits-of-statistics.html>

- The small group is not the endgame; it's the means for fulfilling this command of loving each other and loving the city!
- It doesn't come naturally to anybody (in our fallen state we are naturally curved in upon ourselves; we do it in response to Jesus)
- This is the core of what we do at this church!
 - **One great story:** Several small groups at our North Raleigh Campus got involved with the Wake Count Board of Human Services offering a 12-week class called Club CHOICE for lower income families. They taught some of the classes, provided most of the food, and childcare. This couple named Lee and Laura Ashley Harper went all in and committed to be there all 12 weeks. They came in, sat down and ate with different people, and ran the class for high school kids. They met 3 girls in the class and built a solid friendship with them. Eventually, they invited them into their home each week to study the Bible. Then the girls started to come to their small group, and started to attend our church sometime in March. All 3 came to Christ Easter of 2011 and were baptized that day. They brought their younger to church and he came to Christ and was baptized this past fall. Their mom got baptized at Church at the Ballpark. These girls are all-in at the Summit Church, they serve on Sunday mornings, attend NRC Elevate, and share the gospel with their friends.
 - **Our mission as a church is to turn strangers into friends and eventually family.** (Give myself my own Amen).
- God does not take it lightly.
- Here's what I want you to notice... the first two things he talks about are Christians love for the poor and their sexual purity.
 - These are what makes the church distinctive. Augustine wrote a book called *The City of God*, and he said that Christians don't fit well in this world because they have a completely different attitude toward sex and money than the world, which are two of the most important things to people in the world. He said **people in the worlds are promiscuous with their beds and stingy with their money; Christians are stingy with their beds but promiscuous with their money.**
- Some Christians love the poor but don't seem to care about holiness; some love family values but don't seem to care about the poor; true followers of Jesus always care about both.
 - I had another pastor tell me recently that our church's teaching on sexual morality was an obstacle to people coming to Christ. It was making people mad and we should just be serving the poor. I said, "Amen. We should be serving the poor, but just because our teaching on sexuality makes people mad doesn't mean we're doing something wrong."
 - **John the Baptist had his head cut off by Herod for preaching against open marriage.** Jesus didn't say, "You blew it, John! If you'd just stuck to love, peace, the evils of greed and the need for racial reconciliation and recycling you probably would you have won over Herod's heart." No, he called John the greatest prophet ever to live.
 - To follow Jesus means you'll preach against sexual sin and you'll love and serve the poor. (*Not to mention that sexual sin is the single greatest contributor to poverty in our country.*)
 - Followers of Jesus rarely fit well into political categories, because followers of Jesus don't take their cues from political parties; they take their cues from Jesus, which is why they are called "followers of Jesus,"

II. Avoid immorality (13:4)

[4] *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.*

- "Sexually immoral and adulterous" seems redundant, but "adulterous" means to be married and have sex outside of it; "sexually immoral" is the Greek work *porneia* and it means "not be married and have sex."

and Jesus taught us to love the poor like he did and be holy like he was.

III. Flee materialism

[5] *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

[6] *So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

- The **command**: Be content. I love that this makes his top 4 list. Be content. The **power** comes from two things about Jesus.
- **Vs. 5, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**
 - The Greek literally says, "I will **never** ever leave you **nor** will I **never, never, never** forsake you." In Greek there are 5 negatives!
 - Regan: the rule for when you should guess whether a woman is pregnant is never, ever...
 - If you have "God," then is there really anything else you can be deprived of that would devastate you.
 - *"The one who has God and nothing else on earth doesn't really have that much less than the one who has God and everything else."*
 - A lack of contentment shows that you don't put proper weight on Jesus.
- **Vs. 6, "The Lord is my helper."**
 - The God who loved you so he wouldn't let death and hell or a cross keep him from rescuing you, that God promises to help you in all things.
 - **Spurgeon:** *"Listen to the voice of the Lord speak, I will help you. It is a small thing for me, your God, to help you. Consider what I have already done. What? Not help you! I bought you with My blood. What? not help you! I died for you. Since I have done the greater, will I not do the lesser things for you?"*
 - God has proven once for all his willingness to help us.

Understanding those two things leads to "*contentment*" (vs. 5) and "*confidence*" (vs. 6).

~~Vs. 5, Are you content?~~

- A poll in 2011 revealed that 84% of Americans say that they are content where they are. But a Gallup poll taken in the same year revealed that the #1 concern Americans have is that they don't think they have enough money."⁴
- Most of you, if I asked you, "How many of you are fairly content," you'd raise your hands. But if I also asked you, "If your salary got raised by 15% more next year, would all your financial problems be over?" You'd raise your hands.
- Contentment is understanding that *"In Christ, you can be satisfied with exactly what you have because, in Christ, you have all that you need."*

Are you confident?

- Are you one of those people who goes up and down based on what is happening to you at the moment? You know **drama queens**, something bad happens and they are like, "Oh my gosh... this is the end of the world."
- That shows you don't understand the unchanging nature of Jesus. When you understand the never-changing love and presence of Jesus, your walk with Him is steady. When you don't understand, it's less like a walk with Jesus and more like a pogo stick ride with Him. *It's awesome! It's bad.*
- If you understand Jesus as your sufficiency and your helper, life may go up and down, but you don't have to.
- **One quick word about confidence:** I know guys who are constantly afraid of what they are missing out on something.

⁴ http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/lif_hap_net-lifestyle-happiness-net; [http://www.gallup.com/poll/146708/Americans-Worries-Economy-Budget-Top-Issues.aspx;](http://www.gallup.com/poll/146708/Americans-Worries-Economy-Budget-Top-Issues.aspx) [http://www.gallup.com/poll/148625/Lack-Money-Tops-List-Americans-Financial-Worries.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=All%20Gallup%20Headlines%20-%20Wellbeing%20-%20Well-Being%20Index.](http://www.gallup.com/poll/148625/Lack-Money-Tops-List-Americans-Financial-Worries.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=All%20Gallup%20Headlines%20-%20Wellbeing%20-%20Well-Being%20Index)

- Go to my kids' soccer game; 18 holes of golf with the boss. Maybe I could do half the game... what if I miss out on something—I don't meet the client or get in the boss's good graces and get promoted."
- If I am confident in Jesus as my sufficiency and my helper, I can go to my kids' game and not be thinking about what I'm "not" doing, because going to my kids game pleases Jesus and he'll make sure I'm taken care of.

IV. Honor the church (13:7-19)

(What follows in these verses are a set of ways you should relate to your church; btw—people moving away from here often ask me how to find a new church. These are the things I'd be looking for.)

[7] Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

1. Observe the life of your leaders and imitate their faith

- Hopefully, you are attending a church where the pastors are examples of integrity, sacrifice, and faith.
- Is it the kind of church that values pastoral care? **You see, we know at this church that effective discipleship is not just hearing someone teach; it is observing their life up close.**
- Air war vs. ground war.
- *One of the reasons we chose to pursue a multi-site strategy was so that pastors could be meaningfully involved in people's lives.*
 - When God started to grow this church, I knew that I couldn't be involved effectively in everyone's life. I could be a talking head, but I can't be close enough to everyone so I could say, "Imitate my faith. Listen to me pray."
 - So what were we supposed to do? Turn people away? "Sorry, Pastor J.D.'s social circle is full." We chose to

multiply pastors. We have layers of leaders and pastors and elders. Small groups have elders over them.

- *That's why we push small groups so much.* That's the vehicle through which effective pastoring happens! Small group leaders are overseen by coaches and elders and pastors.
- An expectation of each of our leaders is that they be hospitable and to be involved in people's lives and to have people in their home.
 - I feel sometimes like our home is Grand Central Station. People are constantly in it. And that's great. Because that's what it means to be a pastor. All of our pastors are that way.

[8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. [9] Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

2. Evaluate the church's message by the gospel

- Notice what the author says: There has been one primary message for all of Christian history. Jesus. And Jesus doesn't change. Fads change. You ever notice that churches take on different flavors?
 - In some churches it's all about the **spiritual gifts**. In some churches it is all about how God wants to **bleed and prosper you**. At some churches it's all about **rules**. Some churches are hyper about **action steps**: 5 ways to fix your marriage and 3 ways to be a good friend and 4 ways to get along with annoying people. For some, it's some **slant of theology**, like Calvinism. Pastor's always preaching through 1, 2 and 3 John (John Calvin, John Piper, and John MacArthur). For some, it's all about relevant music. In some churches, it's a political platform, or **social justice or racial reconciliation**.
 - And many of those things are great. But the center of the Christian message is **Jesus**. The same yesterday today and forever. And not some new agenda of

what you need to do for him, but the timeless message of what He has done for you.

- Spiritual gifts, family helps, racial reconciliation—these are things that flow out of the gospel. They are not the gospel. The gospel is the news that Jesus Christ did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves by saving us! He lived the life we were supposed to live...
- **Summit, there is 1 thing I pray will always be true about our message and our ministry, and that is it is primarily about the glory of Jesus—who He is and what He's done.** That we'd be in love with Jesus; that we'd stand amazed at Jesus. He never changes. Real churches, enduring churches, have been built on one thing for 2000 years: adoration of Him!
- So evaluate any church you go to by one thing: the centrality of the gospel.
- You say, "Where can I learn about the gospel?" **GOSPEL ADVERTISEMENT.** (10.99/15.99) I wrote a book on it, but I didn't invent it. It's the central message of all the Bible—what every verse and every story are all about! You should evaluate my teaching based on the gospel—not my book but the real gospel.

[12] So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. [13] Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. [14] For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

2 dimensions here: the author is pointing out that Jesus was crucified outside of the religious and political "camps." He was rejected by both the secular and religious establishments. So it shouldn't surprise you that you are, either.

3. Just because the church is sharply criticized by the community doesn't mean it is doing something wrong

- In fact, it's when everybody likes you that you can be sure you're doing something wrong.

- ~~Listen—the Bible has offended every culture in every age, just in different places. Our culture is offended by its teaching on sexual morality. People in the 19th century were offended by the Bible's teaching on the equality of the sexes and the races; Muslim cultures are scandalized by Jesus' teaching to forgive the adulterer—they're like, "If you forgive the adulterer then the fabric of society will be torn apart."~~
- ~~21st century Americans are not the first people to be offended by the Bible. The Bible is an equal opportunity offender. Ultimately, every generation of Christians have had to decide whether they will take their cues about what is right and wrong from God's word or the shifting winds of cultural preference.~~

The other implication of Jesus going 'outside the camp' is that *Jesus voluntarily left the places of power to seek and save the lost. His was not a grab for power or an attempt to maintain the status quo. He left power and privilege to save the lost.*

4. Is the church going "outside the camp" to the lost?

- Jesus had one mission, to seek and save the lost. I never want to be a part of the church where this not paramount.
- I had a guy criticize our church one time, "You're just a big megachurch, consumed with numbers." My answer always is, "People are hearing the gospel and responding. What do you want us to do, turn them away?" He said, "Well, you shouldn't count the numbers!" So I asked him, "Do you count the offering in your church?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Why would you count the offering and not the people? Does money matter more to you than people?"
- Jesus was such a meticulous number-counting shepherd that he knew immediate when 1 of his 100 sheep went missing!
- Now, you can count for pride reasons, and that is idolatrous, but we're trying to reach people.

- That's why we keep going through the uncomfortable process of growth. When we hit 2000, that was big enough for me. But we keep doing what we do because we want to reach people and families for Jesus.
- That's why we keep focusing on ministering to and loving our city! I don't want this to be a comfortable country club for Christians, but a ministry dispatch for the most broken parts of our city.
 - I love the words of missionary to China C.T. Studd, *"Some people want to live in the sound of chapel bells; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."* **C.T. Studd**
- Jesus' ministry was "outside the camp!" He was the friend of sinners but the bane of the religious establishment.
- *Are you engaged with the poor?*
- *Do you know lost people?* If you died tomorrow, and we did your funeral, and only church people showed up, how could you call yourself the "friend of sinners," like Jesus?
- *Are you going on mission trips... and praying for missionaries?* Would we look at your life and say that it is spent going "outside the camp"?
- **If not, no offense, but you're not a follower of Jesus, you're a cultural Christian.**

[15] Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

This is the first of two "sacrifices" he gives you in the church—think about Hebrew worship: sacrifices were the core part of Hebrew worship. These are the 'new' sacrifices. The core of our church.

5. Worship should be centered on the gospel.

- "Acknowledge his name" means that you acknowledge the centrality of who He is and what He's done. Again, it's about God.
- ***Pet peeve alert:*** I hate those sappy worship songs that are all about how I feel... "God, this is how I feel about you; this is what I want to say to you..." (which is why we don't many of them here). I'd rather center our worship on God's beauty than my feelings; I'd rather rejoice in how God feels about us and what he says about us that navel gaze at my feelings for him.
- That's much more exciting to me.
- And btw, church is not about discovering your potential. Or unleashing the champion in you. It's about the worshipping in awe of the greatness of God.

The second sacrifice is in vs. *[16] Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

6. Generosity, both inside and outside the church, should be a big deal.

- Any time you share, whether with a believer or unbeliever, you are delighting God.
- Generosity of spirit is *the* sign of gospel change.
- Church: this is why I care so much about what you do with your money... like I've told you. If you feel I'm self-interested in saying that, give it somewhere else. Honestly. I'd rather you learn to be generous by giving it somewhere, and if your inability to trust our church is an obstacle, I don't want that to stand in the way of you learning to be a generous person—so give it somewhere else until you feel like you can trust us then give it here.

[17] Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

7. Obey your church leaders and submit to them

- *Hang with me on this one.* God has ordained the church as his instrument on earth. It doesn't mean that the church is led by people who are infallible or perfect, just that the sovereign God has chosen the church as his instrument to dispense a lot of his grace and power on earth.
- He has put his spirit in the church; he **guides** you through the church; he **counsels** you and **warns** you and **spurs you** on to good works through the church. **Here's the thing:** If you're not connected to the church, you *won't* have access to those graces.
- Now, you say, "**Obey?** How could the writer of Hebrews say that?" Well, he's not talking about the leader showing up at your house and saying, "*Quit your job. Give me your car.*" He's talking about in matters of spiritual direction.
 - He's telling you that God has ordained leaders in your life, and if this is church he has led you to, you should consent to that leadership except in matters where they are clearly in violation of Scripture.
 - He's telling you that you should give them the benefit of the doubt. **Cardinal rule in all of my relationships... give the benefit of the doubt.**
 - I choose to assume the best about people's motives until I know their motives are bad.
 - You should assume the motives of your leaders are good. Trust should be assumed until it is violated.
- Now, if you know that they are in violation of Scripture, or you can't follow them with good conscience, then by all means you should withdraw from under their leadership and go somewhere else. Obey God rather than any man.
 - But what you shouldn't do is stay there and just gossip.
 - I remember seeing this demonstrated in my father. As a high school kid hearing people say the worst things about the pastor in our church. And my dad would say, **"That's the man appointed to lead our church. And I'm not speaking against him until I know he's in violation of Scripture. He's got to answer to God—he will give an account. I'm going to respect the**

position God gave him and follow him and give him the benefit of the doubt."

[18] Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

8. The pastoral team should be humble enough to know they need God's help?

- He urges them to pray for them
 - ***Do the leaders at your church have the humility to know they don't know it all... to listen, and humbly to ask for God's direction?***
 - I will tell you this, we, your team, don't think we get it all right... but we spend no small amount of time trying to hear from God and determine what God's direction is for this church. It'd be great if you would give us the benefit of the doubt.
 - But we know we can be wrong, and we need your prayer.
 - Now, when you criticize, I'll always ask, "*Are you really trying to make me a better follower of Christ and make this a more effective church, or are you just trying to hurt me, or do you are just ticked because something at this church doesn't cater to your preference, and you're like spiritual toddler who wants his favorite paci back?*"

9. Pray for your pastoral team

Conclusion: *[20] Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

[22] I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. [23] You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes

soon. [24] Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. [25] Grace be with all of you.

And with that, my friends, we end our study on the book of Hebrews.

It's been all about learning to believe. Has that happened? Are you ready to cross the line of faith? Talk to the one who invited you.