

**Joyful Recovery**  
**October 1, 2017**  
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**Hebrews 13:1-9**

1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

5 *Let your* conversation *be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Well, we are about a month out now from Hurricane Harvey.

It seems that most people are getting settled into their new temporary life.

There is still lots of need; although not so much of an emergency nature as it was.

Food and other supplies are still pouring in and I suppose we will keep working hard and handing it out as long as it does.

Many of you are getting weary but hey, we've been weary before over much less.

Other volunteers are beginning to step up, but they are few.

The flooding of Harvey and the devastation of Rockport and surrounding areas will become less and less sensational as they are replaced in the news by other disasters in Florida and Puerto Rico and elsewhere.

As this happens aid will begin ceasing to flow and we will all be left depending in a more direct way on the Lord.

I do not say this as something negative, however. We are an Independent Baptist Church; we are used to depending directly on the Lord.

Lighthouse, to you and to those who God is sending to become a part of us; we are going to survive this...more than that, we are going to thrive in the midst of it...and we are going to do it with grace and joy.

As we explore the Scriptures the Lord is sending us today, I want to start at the bottom with verses 8 and 9.

Remember,

### **I. God has not changed.**

#### **Hebrews 13:8-9**

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

*A. There are all kinds of crazy doctrines out there today.*

1. "Send us your seed money and God will make you rich."
2. "You are a child of the King, just command these stones that they be made bread."
3. "Just command your sickness to depart in the name of Jesus."
4. "Name it and claim it in the name of Jesus."
5. People in trouble are very susceptible to religious wolves who would fleece the sheep who don't know better.

*B. What does God really promise His children?*

1. There are dozens of individual promises that God makes to His children and those promises are powerful.

#### **2. 2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

3. Each and every one of God's promises to His children are conditional and are predicated on our living in the will of God; and are each designed to make us more like Jesus.

4. God never promised to make anybody rich; God's promises to His children all boil down to about three things:

- He promises to love you unconditionally.
- He promises to never leave you.
- He promises to bless you as He sees fit.

*C. God has a basic plan for every believer.*

1. It is very simple:

- Get saved.
- Get baptized and become a part of His body (which is a local Church).
- Then fulfil your calling in that place.

2. Each believer was created to fulfil a special purpose in His Body.

### **1 Corinthians 12:18-27**

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where *were* the body?

20 But now *are they* many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

3. True happiness only comes as we fulfill the purpose for which we were created.

4. God has a place, a position in life and in the Church for every believer...and He will bless you and keep all of His promises to you IN THAT POSITION.

Point number 2:

## II. Pay attention to your Pastor.

A. **Hebrews 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

B. **Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

C. *That's it, enough said on this.*

Point number 3:

## III. Be content.

A. *To be content is a command.*

1. **Verse 5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*

### 2. **1 Timothy 6:8-9**

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

3. **Luke 3:14** ...And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and be content with your wages.

4. Why should you be content with what you have?

5. Because what every believer **has** is Jesus; right there with you 24/7 providing exactly what you need, when you need it, the way you need it to make you exactly what He created you to be and to fulfil His purpose for your life.

6. Some of what you need is trials; some of what you need is time in the woodshed, some of what you need is education from the Master.

B. *There are some Christians who are wealthy and blessed with great abundance.*

1. Those Christians are also “blessed” with great responsibility and accountability before the Lord.

2. There are other Christians who desperately want to be wealthy and blessed with great abundance.

3. Those Christians who desperately want to be wealthy and blessed with great abundance are guaranteed to never be wealthy and blessed with great abundance! Would you like to know why?

4. It is because they have not learned to be content just with Jesus and whatever He has chosen to give them.

5. Being content does not mean you cannot desire or ask for good things; it means that as long as you have Jesus in your life, you are just as happy with them or without them.

6. In **Philippians 4:11** Paul writes: *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

Number four, remember to:

#### **IV. Do your part to help others going through adversity.**

*A. All this help from the outside is going to dry up.*

1. Outside help will go away but the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ trying to get their homes fixed without insurance will just be beginning.

2. **Hebrews 13:3** Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; **and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.**

3. God says remember those suffering as though it was you...

4. Because in one very real way they are you...we are each one members of the same body, The Body of Christ.

*B. Do your part.*

1. Come up here and volunteer.

2. If you have skills in construction, donate what time you can.

3. If you are financially blessed of the Lord, step up and use some of it to make your brothers and sisters whole again.

4. Building back a flooded home requires a good many skills that the average volunteer does not have.

5. Workers with those skills must get paid to do their work in order to take care of their own families.

6. I am in a unique position to procure the right skilled people; sometimes even at a discounted rate to help get our people back in their homes.

7. Partnering with Baptist Charities and some other Churches who want to help and with what the Lord provides through us, plus what our individual flood victims are able to provide for themselves; we are committed to getting our people back in their homes.

8. God will provide; if you don't believe it, just hide and watch.

### **Conclusion:**

**God says keep loving each other and help strangers as best you can.**

**I want you to take a look at this huge job that needs to be done from a different perspective today.**

**Yes, it is going to take a long time.**

**Yes, it is going to take long hours and interrupt many plans.**

**Yes, it is going to cost a lot of money.**

**Yes, it is depressing to see all this devastation.**

**And yes, we could put a lot more hard and arduous things on this list...**

**However, we are going to see God work firsthand like many of us have never seen before.**

**We are going to be given more positive opportunities to be a living witness for Jesus than probably any of us have ever seen before.**

**We will see our Church grow like it has not in a long time.**

**And, God is going to use YOU to bring Him glory!**

**Being a believer in such a time as this is the opportunity of a lifetime.**

**But without Jesus, all you are going to see is hardship and suffering.**

**Let us tell you about the one the grave could not hold. Let us tell you what the risen Savior who died for our sins is able to do for you!**