

January 17, 2021

Hebrews 13:7-14 - Embrace Christ's Grace & Reproach – Kevin Olivier

- A. Most of us LOVE to hear of the grace of God through Christ and His gospel.
- B. Some texts of Script give us harder teaching.

God calls you to embrace Christ's grace & His reproach

I. HEED CHRIST'S STEADFAST TEACHING (vv7-9)

- A. The author says that Christians ought to imitate others who are examples of faith.
 - 1. Paul teaches this very thing in Titus 1:5f → Turn there to see how we are to imitate elders.
 - a. Imitate their family life.
 - b. Imitate fruit of the Holy Spirit, especially the fruit of self-control:
 - 1. **“not quick-tempered”** –not controlled by anger – instead gentle & humble.
 - 2. **“not addicted to wine”** (lit. **“drunkard”**) – not controlled by a substance.
 - c. Imitate how they handle money – **“not fond of sordid [dishonest] gain”**
→ Leaders should not make an idol of money; God is to be supreme in their hearts.
 - 2. 1 Cor 11:1 - **“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”**
- B. We cannot separate the God-man from His message → His gospel **“is same yesterday, & today, & ...”**
 - 1. Consider how so many today get **“carried away by varied & strange teachings”**
 - 2. Jesus said during His earthly ministry, **“I am the way, ‘truth, & ‘life;... (Jn 14:6).**
- C. Let God's grace be Ur nourishment (**2nd half of v9**)
 - 1. → Turn to Isaiah 40:3-8
 - 2. Foods do not strengthen our hearts—our inmost beings- but grace found in Christ does—
→ Mat 4:4 **“Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of mouth of God”**

II. CLING TO CHRIST'S SACRIFICE (vv10-12)

- A. (v10)- The author gave an illustration to rephrase what he said all along throughout the epistle:
 - 1. Imagine 1st cent Jewish apologist reading this epistle, seeking to refute this author's arguments.
→ He might say, “You have no altar upon which to make a sacrifice for sin; → no *real* religion”
 - 2. In reply, the author in (v10) says “[Through Christ] **we have a [heavenly] altar from which [you who] serve the [obsolete, earthly] tabernacle have no right to eat.”**
- B. Heb 9:8f → Christ's perfect, ultimate sacrifice for sin offered in the heavenly tabernacle.
- C. Jesus suffered & died outside the gate—outside of the temple & outside the city walls of Jerusalem.
 - 1. He suffered this heinous death rather than shedding His blood in earthly temple, which would have given significance to the temple.
 - 2. “Golgotha” → “Calvary” comes from Latin translation of this name.

III. BEAR CHRIST'S REPROACH (v13)

- A. It was grievous to be rejected by one's Jewish family, friends, neighbors, & even by one's own rabbi.
 - 1. A Jew who accepted Christ as Lord & Savior was treated as an unbeliever— a heathen or tax...
 - 2. Figuratively, he or she was to be cast outside the camp because they were unclean/defiled.
 - 3.. Just as Jesus was rejected by His own pple, He often calls converts to be rejected by their own.
 - a. That is largely what it meant for them to bear Christ's reproach.
 - b. The Greek word for **“reproach”** can also be translated as **“insult, mocking, or disgrace.”**
- B. Script's teaching on the Christian calling to bear insult / reproach / reviling for Christ's sake is huge.
 - 1. In Mat 5:11-12, Jesus concluded the beatitudes: **“Blessed are you when *people* insult you...”**
 - 2. 1 Pet 4:14: **“If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory & of God rests on you.”**
 - 3. Turn to Mat 16:24-26

Review/ Application /Conclusion: