



MZBMP

Sunday Morning Service Study Notes
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TITLE:

Them that Have the Rule Over You

TEXT:

Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24

INTRODUCTION

- In chapter 12, Paul exhorted the Jewish believers to endure suffering and not turn away from the Lord.
- In chapter 13, he continues his concluding exhortation. Heb. 13:1-6 contains exhortations about brotherly love, marriage, and contentment.
- Hebrews 13 contains three verses about the exhortation to the church members in their relation to the church leaders. See Heb. 13:7, 17, 24.

THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU

- Who are “them that have the rule over you?”
 - Heb. 10:25 suggests that the Jewish believers, who are the recipients of the epistle, are part of a local church.
 - They rule over you (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24). They speak the word of God (Heb. 13:7). They watch for your souls (Heb. 13:17). They will give account for their ministry (Heb. 13:17). All of these refer to the pastor of a local church. These descriptions serve as qualifications of a pastor.
 - They rule over you (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24).
 - The word “rule” in three verses means to lead the way, to be chief, to preside, and to govern.
 - This ruling is not a lordly authority in every aspect of people’s lives but a shepherd’s authority. See 1 Pet. 5:3.
 - They speak the word of God (Heb. 13:7).
 - They speak not their own opinions, not their feelings, not the tradition of men but the word of God.
 - They watch for your souls (Heb. 13:17).
 - The word “watch” means to be sleepless, to stay awake, and to be attentive.
 - The flock is not their own. It is loaned to them for safekeeping. See Acts 20:28-31. They must watch for the flock in the sense of protecting them and warning them.
 - They are responsible to present every man perfect to the Lord. See Col. 1:28.
 - They will give account to the Lord (Heb. 13:17).
 - This accountability of the pastor is mentioned in the context of the responsibility to watch.
 - They must give an account or deliver speech for the souls committed to their trust, whether any have been lost through their neglect, and whether any of them have been brought in and built up under their ministry.
 - They have greater accountability than the ordinary members. See James 3:1 - “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

THE MEMBERS DUTY: REMEMBER, FOLLOW, CONSIDER, OBEY, SUBMIT, and SALUTE

- In Heb. 13:7, there are two imperatives or command verbs which are “remember” and “follow”. The word “considering” is a participle that acts as a command. It explains how to do the command “follow”.
- In Heb. 13:17, the two imperatives or command verbs are “obey” and “submit”.
- In Heb. 13:24, the imperative or command verb is “salute”.
- REMEMBER:
 - The word “remember” (Μνημονεύετε - mnēmoneuete) means to be mindful of, to remember, to call to mind.
 - Remember the pastors. It involves acknowledging their authority over us, praying for them, assisting them, and supporting them.

- FOLLOW and CONSIDERING:
 - The word “follow” (μιμεῖσθε - mimeisthe) means to imitate.
 - The object to follow is the faith of the pastors. The pastors should be men of faith. We have to imitate the faith of the pastors.
 - The word “considering” (ἀναθεωροῦντες - anatheōrountes) means to look at attentively, to consider well, and to observe accurately.
 - The “end of their conversation” means the manner in which they finished a well-spent life. The pastors should have a good manner of life. The Bible requires a high standard of living for anyone who would desire to be a pastor. See 1 Tim. 3:1-7.
 - Consider the end of their conversation or their manner of life to the end. See 1 Tim. 4:12.
- OBEY and SUBMIT
 - The word “obey” (Πειθήσθε - peithesthe) means to comply.
 - The word “submit” (ὑπαίκετε - hypaiketete) means to give way, to yield, to surrender.
 - Obedience and submission are mentioned in the context of the watching duty of the pastors. Whenever the pastors warn and teach us, we have to obey and submit.
 - If the members obey and submit to the pastors, the pastors will give account to the Lord joyfully.
 - On the other hand, if the members disobey and rebel, the pastors will still give account to the Lord with grief, sigh, or groaning. This is unprofitable or hurtful to the members.
- SALUTE:
 - The word “salute” (Ἀσπάσασθε - aspasasthe) means to greet, to receive joyfully, welcome.
 - Salute the pastors.
 - This is part of the closing words of Paul.