

Without the camp

*Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.
For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.
Hebrews 13:13-14*

Known specially to the initial Hebrew recipients of this epistle is the unique meaning of this expression. It is left to the reader to explore the Old Testament instances of this phrase to appreciate its application here. The admonition to New Testament believers follows the reminders previously repeated throughout the epistle. Jesus redeemed us eternally with His precious blood, which was the ultimate fulfillment of the beasts' blood that was symbolically poured out at the altar and sprinkled upon the mercy seat within the tabernacle. Yet to do so He also perfectly fulfilled the type of the burning of the flesh of the sacrifice for sin without the camp. To identify with the symbol was to understand the transference of sin to the beast burnt without the camp under the first covenant. To identify with Jesus the fulfillment under the new and better covenant means that we understand the magnificence of the One who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, made to be sin for us, who knew no sin, and bore the real reproach of our sin in his own body on the tree, there without the camp. To identify with Him who is not ashamed to call us His brethren makes us unashamed to call Him Lord, understanding that to do so also places us without the camp of this world's philosophies and religions of human effort to make oneself acceptable. So great a price He paid, and so powerful a resurrection, to destroy the power of death, makes us happy to be in His company without the camp. "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified."