

- (1) Let brotherly love continue.
- (2) Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- (3) Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.
- (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.
- (5) Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
- (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.
- (8) JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, 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.

Think on these things:

- 1) According to v. 1, what comparison is made about Christian church groups? Do you feel that way about this church where you attend? What characteristic binds us together and must be continued?

V. 1 speaks of 'brotherly love.' The Church is a family; the saved are the children of God, and we are brothers and sisters to one another. The binding characteristic is 'agape' love, which cares for and responds to needs of others, both within the family (service) and outside church doors (ministry). The hope is that class members feel that their own church models this family dynamic of care and support.

- 2) Hospitality --- especially in the Middle East --- has always been a highly valued virtue. Travel was difficult, and inns were often dangerous. To show hospitality by opening one's home to host, feed and refresh strangers was a great kindness. The statement here is that in providing such services, hosts may have entertained God's angels. Consider Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:8-9 and 3 John 5-8. What does it mean to "host" somebody today, and what would be a reason or concern about hosting a stranger?

Hosting means? **For many today, hosting means providing a meal (cash or food) and perhaps blankets and warm clothing (referring to homeless strangers). It might include transporting them to a shelter. In the church environment, hosting might involve housing, feeding and transporting visiting leaders. It could also involve temporarily providing a place to stay for fellow church members experiencing hardships.**

Concerns? **Today's primary concern is personal or family safety; we just don't commonly bring strangers into our homes to help them. Many folks financially support helping organizations to do this.**

- 3) Who is responsible to visit prisoners in our jails and prisons (v. 3)? Why are we to remember mistreated people? Read Matthew 25:37-40. Christians should not separate themselves from the visible needs of others, nor hold back responding out of shame or fear. We are to care for the persecuted.

Who is responsible to visit the imprisoned? **Matthew's passage makes it clear that "we" are to do this (be careful not to dismiss this as something others ought to do)**

Who are “the mistreated” today, and how can we help? **The mistreated could be any one person or group of people (e.g., the homeless, specific races or people groups in our cities, etc...).** We can get involved in personal assistance and/or community or political advocacy efforts to show support.

- 4) What should be the Christian view on marriage? Biblical teachings, contrary to American culture, are that marriage is between one man and one woman, intended for a lifetime (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-9; 1 Corinthians 6:13b-20; and Ephesians 5:25-33). This position puts us at odds with many people today, including some of our best friends. Proverbs 2:17 describes marriage as a covenant; the Catholic church considers it a holy sacrament. Note that those who commit adultery or are sexually immoral “defile” this covenant and sacrament. According to Hebrews 13:4, how should we value marriage?

Biblical teachings are that marriage between a man and a woman is to be esteemed (valued) and honored. City, state or federal law notwithstanding, marriage is sacred. Adultery and immoral sexual behaviors are not “acceptable” because they defile God’s purpose for marriage. He describes His relationship to the church as illustrated in the husband-wife unity of a proper marriage. What God has joined together, let no man separate! We are to honor God with our bodies, as well as our spirits.

- 5) Some people misquote that, “Money is the root of all evil.” What does 1 Timothy 6:10 actually say? Now look at the preceding verses in 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What is said about, “godliness, with contentment?” There are two promises to cling to in Hebrews 13:5b-6, and one from Matthew 6:33. What are they?

Actual teaching is – **The ‘love’ of money is the root of all evil. It leads us astray from faith in God!**

Godliness with contentment? **Becoming a godly person, content with God’s plan for me, is great gain!**

3 Promises? **1) God will never forsake us in our time of need; 2) Helped by God, why should we fear any actions by men?; 3) God knows all about our needs and will surely meet them. We need to focus on seeking Him and His Kingdom.**

- 6) V. 7 says that we should do something throughout our church years. In addition to participating in the local Body of Christ, expressing worship, studying the Bible, and stepping into service roles, what are we called to do regarding our church leaders (pastors and teachers)? Do you do this? It is helpful to you? If you are a church leader, are you comfortable being identified as a role model of faith to be imitated?

We are told to “consider” (weigh, think about) the way of life we see in our Christian leaders and what their final reward will be in Christ --- and then imitate them! While some rise to leadership in our churches, not all are comfortable being pointed to as role models to imitate, since we all have faults....

- 7) Heresy is the perversion of truth. It is adding or taking away something that changes a true statement, making it false. Here are two examples: 1) salvation is by faith, *but you must also be water-baptized*; 2) we are saved by God’s grace, so *the more we sin, the more He is glorified by forgiving us*. Hebrews 13:9 cautions us to ‘not be led away by diverse and strange teachings.’ Notice the warning of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, which follows the important teaching in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What will “our time” be like (can you think of any examples?), and how will a Christian be able to sort out truth from error?

In our times, people will walk away from the Bible to worship where the message supports their own worldview (e.g., focusing on wealth, gender types, professionally entertaining worship, similar social status/race, messages avoiding discussing sin and repentance, etc...). They will “shop” for churches that say what they want them to say. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says to avoid error, we must know our Bibles well.

8) V. 8 is an important truth for all Christians to understand. The God of yesterday we read about in our Bibles --- helping, saving, healing, rebuking, correcting, delivering --- is the same for/to us TODAY. This doctrinal understanding goes beyond today to also include FOREVER! How does this truth impact you?

Feedback question. Look for answers expressing greater confidence and faith because of this promise.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: