

Hebrews
(Lesson 20)

Introduction:

1. The third section of Hebrews (ch.11-13) stresses "the superiority of the Christian faith."
 - a. (ch.11) Faith is explained and illustrated.
 - b. (ch.12) God's people are exhorted to persevere.
 - 1) (vs.1-3) The Christian race is to be run with "patience."
 - 2) (vs.4-13) God's chastening must be faced with "endurance."
 - 3) (vs.14-17) Instructions relating to perseverance must be followed.
 - 4) (vs.18-29) Christians must listen to Him who speaks (1:1-3).
 - c. (ch.13) Additional responsibilities are revealed that are designed to help Christians persevere.
2. (13:1-3) In order to persevere we must fulfill our responsibilities toward others.
 - a. Instructions relating to others are also addressed in 3:13; 6:10; 10:24-25.
 - b. These are important matters because Christians who become discouraged and begin to drift away from the Lord usually withdraw from other Christians.
 - c. Fulfilling our responsibilities toward others will help us to remain faithful to Christ.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1) WE ARE TO "LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE"
 - A. "Brotherly love" is emphasized throughout the New Testament (Romans 12:10a; 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:7).
 - B. This kind of love was demonstrated by the members of the congregation that met in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42, 44-46; 4:32, 34-35).
 - C. We are shown how to let brotherly love continue in 1 Peter 3:8-11.
- II. (vs.2) WE ARE TO PRACTICE HOSPITALITY
 - A. Abraham (Genesis 18:1-8) and Lot (Genesis 19:1-3) practiced hospitality.
 - B. God required the Jews to practice hospitality (Leviticus 19:33-34).
 - C. Christians are to be "*given to hospitality*" (Romans 12:13b).
 - D. Hospitality is an important part of the admonition given in Galatians 6:10.
- III. (vs.3) WE ARE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN BONDS
 - A. This is primarily referring to people who have been imprisoned for doing the Lord's work (Matthew 5:10; 25:36).
 - B. The Hebrew Christians had assisted the writer while he was in bonds (10:34).
 - C. Paul was grateful to those who cared for him while he was in custody (2 Timothy 1:16-18).