

Hebrews

(Lesson 22)

Introduction:

1. Hebrews was written to encourage the Lord's people to remain faithful to Him.
2. Ch.13 contains a number of instructions that promote faithfulness, especially during times of affliction.
 - a. (vs.1-3) We must fulfill our responsibilities toward others.
 - b. (vs.4) We must remain faithful in our marriage relations.
3. (vs.5-6) In order to remain faithful to Christ we must be content.
4. The first step in being content is . . .

Discussion:

- I. (vs.5a) *"LET YOUR 'CONVERSATION' [manner of life] BE WITHOUT COVETOUSNESS"*
 - A. Two main words are translated "covetousness" in the New Testament.
 1. One is a general word that refers to "greed" [an uncontrolled desire for more].
 2. The other is a more specific word that relates to "the love of money" (Hebrews 13:5).
 - B. Both types of covetousness are condemned in the Bible (Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:9-10).
 - C. Bible examples of covetous people include:
 1. Achan (Joshua 6:18; 7:19-25)
 2. the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:21-22)
 3. the Jews in the temple (Matthew 21:12-13).
 - D. The first step in being content is eliminating covetousness.
 - E. After eliminating covetousness, . . .
- II. (vs.5b) *"BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE"*
 - A. The opposite of covetousness is "contentment."
 - B. Contentment has to be learned (Philippians 4:11-13).
 - C. Affliction may have caused the Hebrew Christians to lose many of their possessions -- it would be important to learn contentment to prevent falling away.
 - D. Something that will help us learn contentment is remembering that . . .
- III. (vs.5c) *"HE HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE"*
 - A. This promise was made to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 31:6) and Joshua (Joshua 1:5).
 - B. Christ has also promised to be with His followers (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - C. We must place our trust in the Lord and not in possessions -- possessions may leave us, but the Lord will not.
 - D. A person who has learned to trust God and to be content can boldly say, . . .
- IV. (vs.6) *"THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME"* (Psalm 118:6; Psalm 23; Romans 8:31)

Conclusion:

1. These verses teach us that we have a choice to make.
 - a. We can put our trust in "things" [covetousness], or . . .
 - b. We can put our trust in God [contentment].
2. In order to remain faithful to Christ we must put our trust in God.
 - a. We must be free from covetousness.
 - b. We must learn to be content.