

God Working in Us What is Pleasing to Him

Hebrews 13:7-25

Pastor Russ Kennedy, July 18, 2004

Introduction

Endings are _____ things. Sometimes the endings are hard because:

- they have been _____.
 - There is a sense of loss and regret and unfinishedness.
- things have been _____.
 - The separation occurring at the end of a good, enjoyed job or ministry.

Coming to this last sermon through Hebrews is like that. This is a good ending. But the last sermon on this grand sermon must _____ like the text it is preaching. It must come with a sense of finality and finish. Our author does this for them and for us by highlighting how _____ is at work in us to bring about what is pleasing to _____.

_____ : The Conduct that Pleases God (v.7-19)

Our author is closing the book with a series of commands that are to direct our _____ in God-pleasing ways. Generally, these are commands are addressed to the community of believers, the church. They show us how we ought to live in our lives _____.

Honor those who have _____ you (v.7-8)

The church to whom this was written had had an exemplary leadership in the _____. They were marked out as their teaching elders who had spoken God's Word to them and had lived godly lives whose _____ sustained through to the end.

- That sort of _____ is to be carefully evaluated, esteemed and emulated.

Don't be carried away by _____ (v.9-10)

These people had sat under good teaching from godly men. Now, in the hardships of the hour, they risked being captured by a variety of doctrines _____ to the New Testament.

Leave _____ religions and churches (v.11-14)

The author says that Jesus suffered a full and final sacrificial death _____ the city physically and outside the camp figuratively. Those who were involved in Judaism, had to _____ it (the city and the camp) and go to Jesus outside.

- It is no different today. Professing believers are to be exhorted to _____ false religions and apostate churches if they are to be received as true believers.

Offer God-pleasing _____ to Him (v.15-16)

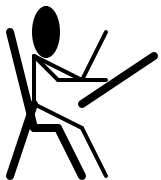
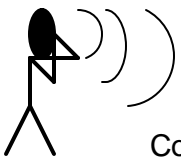
Since we are _____ to worship in the sacrifices of the Old Testament, what are the sacrifices of the New Covenant?

- Sacrifice of _____
- Sacrifice of _____

Be willing to _____ your spiritual leaders (v.17-19)

There are _____ commands that are given as part of following spiritual leadership.

- _____ your leaders



- _____ to their authority
- _____ for us (them)

_____ : The Ability to Please God (v.20-21)

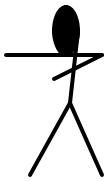
But for most of us, somewhere one or more of these commands really _____ us in our sanctification.

- For none of us is our weakness and struggle an _____.

Our Divine _____ (v.20)

The Author brings all these resources to bear on our _____. He brings forward the _____ of God, the _____ of the resurrection and the shepherding aspects of the lordship of Christ.

- The God of _____
 - We must remember that we are called to please by _____ the God of peace. When we do, we begin to experience the peace of God.
- The God who _____ Jesus
 - The measure of the power of God is not in creation or in restoration. It is in the _____. There the power of God available to accomplish the purposes of God was most fully revealed.
- The Lord Jesus, our great _____
 - Jesus is our good and chief and great shepherd. He is the one whom we ___ obey and submit to together. And He is the one whose care and chastening of us is _____.



His Enabling _____ (v.21a)

_____ is requested?

- The word “equip” means to build up, _____ or prepare fully. So he is praying and asking that _____ would do all that is necessary in every area so that we are able to do His will.

_____ is this full equipping or preparing brought about?

- By God working ___ us what pleases Him through Jesus Christ. Earlier he said that it was good that we were inwardly strengthened by _____. Well, here it is in other words. We work _____ God is working in us.

Its Exalting _____ (v.21b)

When we, believing God is working in us to _____ us in every way for to please Him in doing His will, choose in the midst of the mess to _____, then Jesus Christ is glorified.

Conclusion

- Loved ones, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have only touched the surface of how saints are _____ when Jesus, our sufficient Savior and our supreme Sovereign, is _____. For the glory of Christ and the gladness of all peoples.

Take the time this week to read the entire book of Hebrews, it will take you between 30 minutes and an hour. Initial your paper here when you are finished and return to me for a surprise!

Pastor Dale