



13 ¹ Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. ¹⁹ I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. **Hebrews 12:28–13:19 (ESV)**

Our worship of God should not end when we leave our place of worship. We should offer sacrifices to God even after we leave the chapel, or church. Hebrews 13:16 tells us, “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you

have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Does it cost something to do these things? Yes. Giving up something that has value to you, so that someone else can have it, is a sacrifice. Doing good for someone else means giving up some of your time and energy, which is another type of sacrifice. We told that when we make these sacrifices God will be pleased. Giving sacrifices that please God should be a daily pattern for every believer.

When we worship God, we give our time and energy to Him, to honor and praise Him. When we make sacrifices that please God by sharing what we have with others we can continue worshipping Him. The more a believer surrenders to God the more they will trust God to supply for all their needs. A lifestyle of worship and sacrifice produces a heart that is content with what God has provided.

Let’s go back to the end of Hebrews 12, and continue to the beginning of Hebrews 13, and take a close look at specific actions we are told we should be doing:

- Become an acceptable worshiper
- Worship - Offer Acceptable Sacrifices
- The Fruit of Worship - Be Content in Jesus

Become an Acceptable Worshipper

Two weeks ago, we studied the end of Hebrews 12, and we considered what God considers to be “acceptable worship. This is a review of what we studied then.

- What is acceptable worship?
 - If you’ve ever received a gift that was embarrassing or insulting, then you may be able to understand why God considers some worship unacceptable.
 - Just as gardeners care for plants in a garden, believers must care for their own attitudes and behaviors, so that they will grow into better believers who worship God in the way He considers to be appropriate.
- Key ingredients that make a worshipper acceptable to God are ...
 - “Gratitude”
 - We must remember how greatly we need to be saved from our sins..
 - We must not forget what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross.
 - We must grow more grateful that He alone can meet our deepest spiritual needs.
 - We must remember that our eternal destiny now is to be a citizen of an “unshakable kingdom”.
 - Reverent
 - Awe
 - God receives “acceptable worship” with His consuming fire.
 - As God accepted King Solomon’s sacrifice with a consuming fire when the temple was dedicated (2 Chronicles 7:1).
 - As God accepted Elijah’s sacrifice with a consuming fire, showing the reality of the true God as opposed to the lie of a false god, Baal (1 Kings 1:37&38).

Worship – Offer Acceptable Sacrifices

In Hebrews 13: 1, acceptable sacrifices express “brotherly love.” In Hebrews 13:16 acceptable sacrifices are described as “doing good” and “sharing” what we have. In Hebrews 13:2-15 we are presented with specific examples of “doing good” and “sharing.” Acceptable sacrifices are part of acceptable worship.

We might ask if these sacrifices of doing good and sharing take place during or after worship. After all, most sharing between believers will take place either before or after worship services. The truth is that worship isn’t just what we do during a “worship service.” Worship should become a way of life. Worship should be a part of everything we do. The sacrifices we offer can be offered anytime and anyplace. As long as they are motivated by a love for Jesus, they are acceptable sacrifices in the eyes of God.

- Hospitality (Hebrews 13:2)
 - Sharing the places where we regularly gather with other people, or even our homes.
 - Hosting others by supplying what they need to be fed or to be made comfortable.
 - Abraham did this, and it turned out that he was entertaining God himself in the form of angels (Genesis 18:1-15).
 - Angels can refer to either heavenly beings, or messengers of God. In the early church, many leaders travelled from one gathering of believers to another. They needed people to act as hosts when they visited the area, so that they would have food to eat and a place to stay during their visit.
- Caring for those in prison (Hebrews 13:3).
 - This refers primarily to early believers who suffered greatly for their faith in Jesus, who were being sent to prison.
 - This may have involved tremendous personal risk. Visiting believers might have caused authorities to take a closer look at the visitors.
- Honoring the sanctity of marriage (Hebrews 13:4).
 - God’s plan for sexual relations was limited to a man and a woman who were married (Genesis 2:24).
 - Immoral - *pornos*
 - This Greek word is the root of the word found in the word “pornography.”
 - Even a fantasy of sexual activity is outside God’s original plan.
 - Adultery - *moichos*
 - This Greek word refers specifically to when a married person has sex with a person who is not their spouse.
 - Most people today recognize this as sin, although most people today do not recognize that the Bible teaches that the first action “ pornos” is also a sin.

The Fruit of Worship – Be Content in Jesus

When our worship is acceptable to God, and our sacrifices are acceptable to God, we begin to understand what it means to be content. When believers worship God in a worship service in a church or chapel, and offer sacrifices of doing good and sharing, they are building up the muscles of their faith. They grow in their trust in God. Contentment in Jesus’ salvation and His care for them also grows. If a person trusts God completely, that person will be content with what God provides for them.

- “Be content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:5).
 - “Keep your life free from the love of money.”

- Learn to be grateful for what God has already given you.
- The believer's greatest possession is a personal connection to Jesus Himself.
 - "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5).
 - Just as God's chosen people were entering the Promised Land to take possession of it, they were also told, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1:8).
 - Some people mistakenly understand this to mean that God will provide every selfish desire we ask Him to fulfill.
 - Joshua 1:8 tells us that the greatest blessing God's people receive is a personal relationship with God, and His Word.
 - This is also the sense of Hebrews 1:5, as it quotes Joshua 1:5.
- The writer of Hebrews continues to show us that God's presence in the life of a believer is the believer's greatest blessing.
 - Hebrews 13:6 "So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
 - God is with the believer.
 - How much money do you need when God, who owns everything in the universe, has taken a personal interest in taking care of you?
- More about our passage:
 - Believers must "remember" those who "spoke to you the word of God." (Hebrews 13:7).
 - We should follow the example of those who correctly teach the Word of God (Hebrews 13:7).
 - Jesus doesn't change (Hebrews 13:8), so believers should consistently follow the teaching of God's word (Hebrews 13:9).
 - Those in Christ are nourished by Jesus' sacrifice in a way that is unavailable to non-believers (Hebrews 13:10).
 - Old Testament sacrifices pointed toward Jesus' death on the cross (Hebrews 13:11-12).
 - Jesus' sacrifice sanctified believers in a way that Old Testament sacrifices were powerless to do (Hebrews 13:12).
 - Those in Christ will often share in Christ's sufferings (Hebrews 13:13).
 - Should believers be discouraged that they do not find complete victory and total success in this world?
 - This world is not the final destination of the believer (Hebrews 13:14).
 - Believers should rejoice that total victory and glory in Jesus Christ is coming (Hebrews 13:15).
 - My suggestions for developing an attitude of contentment:
 - Find a Bible verse that has helped you to understand that God is close to you, and loves you. Memorize it.
 - Keep reading the Bible and search for more Bible verses that help you to better understand and to connect with God's love. Memorize them.
 - Here are a few verses that I suggest might be helpful:

- Philippians 4:11-13 - ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
- 1Timothy 6:5-8 - ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
- Hebrews 13:5 - ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

One of the most famous early church Fathers, Saint Augustine of Hippo, said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.' Without God we cannot find rest. We might also say that without God we cannot find contentment. We will seek contentment in the things God created instead of finding them in God Himself. The things found in creation will never bring contentment.

Worshipping God is the foundation for contented living. Believer's worship of God comes from overwhelming gratitude for salvation through Jesus Christ, and His great sacrifice. God could have used His power to destroy all sinners. Instead, He sent His Son to save all who believe in Him.

As we grow in our relationship with God, we will love one another. This is God's plan for His people. We should give others some of what we have, including our time and possessions, to others. Our sacrifices will help others to have what they need. God is pleased with believers who "do good" and "share" what they have (Hebrews 13:16).

Worshipping God and giving sacrificially for the needs of others will draw us closer to God. Instead of seeking things that don't belong to us, we will grow to trust God and give others things that belong to us. Confident trust in God can grow into contentment. God will provide. God is with me. What can man do to me.

Hebrews 12:28–13:19

E E S R E D A E L S G O L
L I F E E S M O D G N I K
O L K C L U H D T O I P J
S U S E J B N A S O M M M
L Y R I C A A I K D U A E
A T E V D I R T T E S C G
R O B I O P F N P N N H A
R N M N O E B I Y E O D I
E N E G L E C T R N C C R
D A M P B K I E O C P C R
R C E B T C V R R B A A A
O G R A T E F U L I L S M
D T H E R E F O R E F F O
E O B O D Y L O V E R Y N

Therefore let us be **grateful** for **receiving** a **kingdom** that **cannot** be **shaken**, and thus let us **offer** to God **acceptable** worship, with **reverence** and awe, for our God is a **consuming fire**. Let brotherly **love** **continue**. Do not **neglect** to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. **Remember** those who are in **prison**, as though in **prison** with them, and those who are mistreated, since you **also** are in the **body**. Let **marriage** be held in **honor** among all, and let the **marriage** bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **Keep** your **life** free from **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?" **Remember** your **leaders**, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of **life**, and imitate their faith. **Jesus** Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 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. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the **bodies** of those animals whose **blood** is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a **sacrifice** for sin are burned outside the **camp**. So **Jesus** **also** suffered outside the gate in **order** to sanctify the people through his own **blood**. **Therefore** let us go to him outside the **camp** and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting **city**, but we seek the **city** that is to come. Through him then let us **continually** **offer** up a **sacrifice** of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not **neglect** to do **good** and to share what you have, for such **sacrifices** are pleasing to God. Obey your **leaders** and submit to them, for they are **keeping** watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Pray** for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act **honorably** in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in **order** that I may be restored to you the sooner.

(ESV)

