

Sovereign Grace Church
“Outside the Camp” outline
November 12, 2017

Hebrews 13: 7-16

It is sad, but interesting, to watch our present world system devolve into the intellectual and moral chaos of humanistic relativism. We no longer have an adequate intellectual or spiritual base for holding to ethical absolutes. The mere holding of ethical absolutes is enough to warrant society labeling one as hateful and intolerant. If that isn't an example of applying a moral absolute (as groundless as it may be)....I don't know what is!

To identify with this world system and to seek its honors is to play a dangerous & very uncertain game. What is given can be taken away without notice. Just ask Hollywood! But this pales in comparison to the end-game when Reality Himself turns His face upon a make-believe world and exposes it for the fake it truly is. Those who have coveted the rewards of this world system will reap the consequences of a life time of suppressed knowledge and selfish pursuit and will indeed come to the belated recognition that moral absolute ARE, in fact, Real! And they are NOT groundless! Their own suppressed knowledge will condemn them.

In contrast to this uncertain and judgmental kingdom of material and flesh, Jesus offers His Kingdom of peace and righteousness. It's just that one cannot enter His kingdom without leaving this world's kingdom, which is its opposite. The world will not be happy when you reject its honors and benefits and may indeed persecute you if you publicly resist them in the Name of Christ. The writer to the Hebrews presents his people with just this choice. The world's tentative and very changeable blessings are as a vapor compared to the eternal blessings of the unchangeable Christ! The temptation to achieve a temporal reprieve at the expense of eternal displeasure makes sense only if God is not God....but He is! The Christian must choose whether to seek this world's honors and blessings or to suffer rejection with Jesus Who, in coming to save the world, was cast “outside the camp” by the world He came to save!

1. Remembering your former leaders vv. 7-8

- **How to remember former leaders and teachers. v. 7**

- **What makes their teaching worth remembering? v. 8**
Jn 15: 20

2. Resisting teaching that removes Jesus from center point vv. 9-14

- **What doctrines? v. 9**

- **A Contrast of Altars vv. 10-14**
Heb. 7: 27; 9: 7, 25; 10: 1-3; Lev. 16:27; I Pet. 4: 12-13

3. Our spiritual service of worship vv. 15-16

- **Worship with our Lips v. 15**
Matt. 12: 34
- **Worship with our Service v. 16**
I Jn. 3: 17

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. When was the last time you suffered in some sense because of your commitment to Jesus? How did you receive that suffering? Is there a God-honoring way to receive the suffering of a world which rejects Jesus? Can you think of examples in Scripture? Why is the manner in which you receive the world's rejection important?**
- 2. Who were some of the leaders who were humanly responsible for you coming to faith in Christ or developing an understanding of what life in His kingdom is like? Were these people perfect? Why is perfection an increasingly difficult curtain to hide behind in our day? Why is an open transparency good policy? Who is the only adequate "curtain"?**
- 3. Have you ever been "carried away" by teaching that takes your mind off of Christ? How can even good teaching become bad when used in a way that shifts our minds off of Christ? How is this possible? Or is it?**
- 4. As you review your life and accomplishments, do you see yourself as living with Jesus, "outside the camp" of worldly influence? How can you receive a worldly honor in such a way that honors Christ and doesn't idolize the world?**