

Sovereign Grace Church

“The End” outline

December 3, 2017

Hebrews 13: 20-25

This morning we are finishing our study of Hebrews. Hebrews is a book written by an unknown but very knowledgeable author familiar with the people to whom he was writing. These people were being increasingly divided by some who were advocating a return to the safety of the Old Covenant shadows. Such shadows seemed to offer them at least short term protection from the very real threat of physical persecution on those seeking to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior. The writer has contrasted Jesus as the Reality to which all of these Old Covenant traditions, rites, sacrifices and priestly service had pointed! He reminds them that to turn their backs on the Reality of Jesus for the familiar safety of those shadows which pointed to Him was to lose the very thing the shadows were shadows of. It was to turn the shadows from pointers to truth and reality to prisons of error and idolatry!

*Following Jesus today has not changed much and many of His followers in the world face the same threatened persecutions as those from this early era. It is interesting that much of the threatened persecution of the church comes from those inside the church.....rather than the state. This is why it is extremely important in the midst of all of our discussions, disagreements, planning and inter-denominational communication to keep our focus on Jesus....the Author and Perfecter of our faith. To forget this is to render our witness to a lost world as not merely weak...but contradictory!
(Jn. 17: 21)*

1. Final Prayer vv. 20-21

Psm 42:5; Jn 16:33; Isa 63:11; Phil 2: 13

2. Final Exhortation v. 22

Jn 5:39

3. Final Information v. 23

4. Final Greetings/Benediction vv. 24-25

Final Lessons

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

- 1. What in your own words is the basic theme of the Book of Hebrews? What questions is it attempting to answer? What is the great temptation for those fearing coming persecution? Have you ever been tempted to deny your faith in Christ? What were the circumstances? What did you do? What did you learn?**
- 2. If God is the God of Peace...how do we account for His description as a Warrior (Ex. 15:3; Isa 42:13). What explains God's desire for peace and willingness to engage in war? What application does this have for how we seek peace? What application does it have for how we fight our wars?**
- 3. What are the sorts of idolatries that you are most tempted by? How does one fight against idolatry? How does one fight against a desire to "return to the shadows"? Can seeking to do good become an idol? How? How is it guarded against?**
- 4. Of what personal value was our study of Hebrews? What did you learn? How has it affected you life?**