

Text: Hebrews 13:1-17

Theme: Pardon me, your faith is showing!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation this morning is the Epistle lesson of Hebrews chapter thirteen verses one through seventeen.

Boys and girls I pray that you are healthy and well today. Have you ever seen someone with their hat on backwards or their shirt inside out? Maybe you have seen something icky on the back of someone's pants. I am sure you would be good to them and tell them that something is wrong. You might even say it in a funny way like, "Hey, your forehead or shirt tag is showing! Pardon me, but you have something on your pants, you might want to go clean them." Have you ever seen that for faith? In our text for today, we see something similar, we see what we believe, teach, and confess about Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, what we call our faith showing in our lives. How does our faith express itself in our day to day lives? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Faith as more than mere lip service, Shows itself in daily life

The author of Hebrews has been building to this culmination of faith showing itself in the lives of the hearers. In Chapter eleven, we see the great examples of the patriarchs who

have gone before us. The shining examples of steadfast faith from Abel, Noah, Abraham, all the way to Samuel and all the rest of the prophets. In Chapter twelve, we saw that great encouragements to hold onto the faith, that we come to Mount Zion in festal gathering with myriads of angels. Now, in chapter thirteen, we shift to the evidence of faith that should appear in our lives if we really are walking by faith and not by sight. We have left Mount Zion to talk about fairly ordinary matters, such as hospitality, marriage, church officers, and who was the last one to be released from jail.¹ This is because our faith, the confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, who has saved us by His death and resurrection, is not mere lip service but it shows itself in our daily lives. It shows in the things we think, in the words we say, and the deeds we do. We treat others as though we were in their very skin alongside them.

At home

One of the main ways that we do this is in our homes. Our spouses and children are our nearest neighbors and so receive the prime examples of faith in our daily lives. We hold marriage in high honor, whether married or single, and keep the marriage bed pure. A Christian home begins with a Christian marriage in the will of God. This means loyalty and purity. Sex outside of marriage is sinful and destructive. Sex within the protective bonds of marriage can be enriching and glorifying to God. Fornication is committed by unmarried persons and adultery by married persons. (However, in the New Testament, the term

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 326). Victor Books.

“fornication” can refer to many kinds of sexual sins² We show our spouses and children the love of God on a daily basis. This does not mean that we are always perfect towards them, none of us are. Our family knows how much we are sinners. Yet they also are the ones most apt to forgive us when we confess our sins against them, we receive absolution through our variety of vocations in the home. Parents forgiving children, children forgiving parents, and spouses forgiving each other.

Interactions with others

Our faith shows itself in how we act in our homes and treat our spouses. It also shows itself in our daily interactions with those around us. Our lives are different compared to the world around us. This is because we have different motivations. The world and people within it are motivated by greed, by covetousness, by getting as many new shiny things as they can, bigger Televisions, bigger cars, better houses, more fame and popularity. The world is never content with what it has. It always wants more or something better.

One of the ways to get bigger and better things is to be the one in control and make the rules, to have all the power. That is why the world hates it when someone one sets up a rule over them. They think that they know better than that leader. It's the “American Way” You can do everything yourself. You do not need anyone else or their help. You do not have to follow the rules, you can be the one making the rules.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 327). Victor Books.

Yet, what did we read today? “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; Never will I forsake you. Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.” As Christians we are not motivated by money or greed but we are motivated by our Lord and God, by His promises, and what He tells us in Holy Scripture. He promises never to leave us and never to forsake us. The worst that man could do to us is to take our physical temporal life. But the Lord is not our helper for a limited time. Our redeemed lives are in His hands forever. He watches over us, cares for us, and protects us. He grants to us everything we need for this body and life, even if we are not always aware His provision, and do not give Him the thanks and praise that we should.

It is God that has established our leaders over us, leaders at work, at home, at church, our civil leaders, and many more. Instead of complaining and grumbling against them when we do not like a decision that they have made, what should we do? We remember them. We honor them as our leaders. We may not always like the person in office but we respect and hold the office in high regard. In so doing, we are honoring the One who placed them in that office. We do so especially for the leaders in the Church. We are to remember what they taught. Remember that it was God’s word and that therefore you will never want to follow leaders who come with their own wisdom. Remember, and give thanks for their lives of service, many to the point of martyrdom and death.

All we do, we do in praise to Christ

All of this, and much more, we do. We do this, not for earthly rewards and earthly gain, but in thanksgiving for what Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross. Our entire lives, our thoughts, our words, our deeds, everything is one of praise to our Savior. Praise because of what He has done for us, for His perfect life in our place, for His blood death, passion, and resurrection to save us from our sins, from the clutches of death, and from the power of the devil, for the wonderful things He gives to us day by day. Jesus has done everything for us, what could we do in return? Nothing, nothing except give to Him thanks and praise forever and ever.

This we do, until that day when Jesus comes again in power and glory, raises the dead, and we join the myriad of angels and saints around His throne, and continually praising Him in the new heavens and new earth.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.