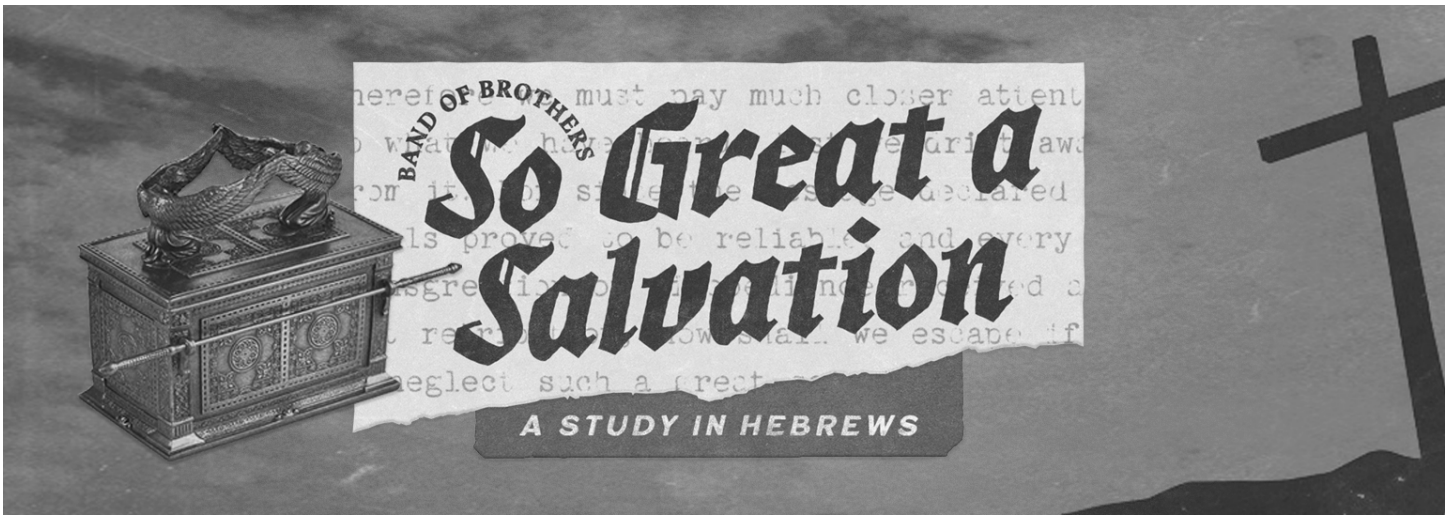




BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2024 – WEEK 13

Hebrews 13:1-24: Peace, Power, & Provision

Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

– Hebrews 13:20-21 NLT

- **An unconventional letter with an unexpected conclusion** – Hebrews 12:1-24

- Let us... lay aside every weight and every sin
 - run with endurance
 - set our gaze on Jesus
 - not regard lightly God's discipline
 - lift our drooping hands
 - strengthen our weak knees
 - make straight paths for our feet
 - strive for peace and holiness
 - not fail to obtain the peace of God
 - not refuse him who is speaking

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. – Hebrews 12:25 ESV

- Who is "he?"

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.* – Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV

*And a voice [God] came out of the cloud, saying, "**This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!**"* – Luke 9:35 ESV

*And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me **to proclaim good news** to the poor. He has sent me **to proclaim liberty** to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**” – Luke 4:17-19 ESV*

proclaim – *kēryssō* – to announce, declare, preach

- to proclaim with an authority which must be listened to and obeyed

- God has spoken through His Son

*“...all who reject me and my message will be judged on the day of judgment **by the truth I have spoken.** I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so **I say whatever the Father tells me to say.**” – John 12:48-50 NLT*

- **When God shook Mount Sinai**

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” – Hebrews 12:26 ESV

*Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and **the whole mountain shook violently.** – Exodus 19:17-18 NLT*

*When the people heard the thunder and the loud blast of the ram’s horn, and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, **trembling with fear.** – Exodus 20:18 NLT*

- God’s presence and power petrified them
- They wanted nothing to do with Him
- They refused to go near Him
- Yet, these people are seriously considering a return to the “good old days”

*“Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 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, ²⁹for our God is a consuming fire. – Hebrews 12:27-28 ESV*

shaken – *salueō* – disturbed, destroyed, cast down, toppled

- The author reaches back into the Old Testament again

“For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.” – Haggai 2:6 ESV

Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but you remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. But you are always the same; you will live forever. – Psalm 102:25-27 NLT

But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. – 1 Peter 3:10 NLT

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. – Revelation 21:1-2 NLT

- **An attitude of gratitude**

*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.*
– Hebrews 12:28-29 ESV

- Express gratitude for the Kingdom to come
- Offer God acceptable worship here and now
- But what does acceptable worship look like?
 - The author uses two words:
 - reverence** – *aidōs*
 - regard or respect for another, deference

awe – *eulabeia*

- piety toward God, godly fear

- What follows is a very practical list
 - This is not a list of rules or laws to keep
 - They are expressions of reverential fear
 - All manifested on a horizontal plane

- **Not what I was expecting** – Hebrews 13:1-6

- This looks a lot like a list of commands
- Is he recommending a return to legalism?
- Has he shifted the emphasis back to their faithfulness rather than God's?

- **Freedom from the fear of man**

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” – Hebrews 13:6 ESV

- We are to fear (revere) God, not man
- By honoring others while trusting God
- Faith in action
 - Love one another (vs 1)
 - Be hospitable to strangers (vs 2)
 - Show empathy to prisoners (vs 3)
 - Honor marriage and live morally (vs 4)
 - Avoid the love of money (vs 5)
 - Learn the secret of contentment (vs 5)
 - Imitate the lives of faithful men (vs 7)
 - Avoid false and misleading teaching (vs 9)
 - Look forward to the city that is to come (vs 14)
 - Obey and submit to your leaders (vs 17)

- **We can live with joy in the present**

*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. – Hebrews 13:15-16 ESV

- Because we know how the future turns out
- This was the attitude of Jesus

*...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. **Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.** – Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT*

***Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.** – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT*

***Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!** Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. – Philippians 4:4-5 NLT*

- This seems **impossible!**
 - How can we rejoice in difficulty!
 - Isn't this just another form of legalism?

Remember, the Lord is coming soon. – Philippians 4:5 NLT

- Living and rejoicing with the end in mind
 - Jesus **lived** with the end in mind

- Jesus **died** with the end in mind
- He currently **serves** with the end in mind
- And God equips us to do the same

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. – Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

*His divine power has given us **everything we need for life and godliness** through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. – 2 Peter 1:3 BSB*

- We can run well **because God is faithful**
- We can endure **because God is faithful**
- We can rejoice **because God is faithful**
- We can love others **because God is faithful**
- We can have peace **because God is faithful**
- We can be content **because God is faithful**

Through these He has given us His precious and magnificent promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, now that you have escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities and continue to grow in them, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Therefore, brothers, strive to make your calling and election sure. For if you practice these things you will never stumble, and **you will receive a lavish reception into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** – 2 Peter 1:4-8, 10-11 BSB*

- **Discussion Questions**

How could focusing on God's faithfulness to fulfill all His promises make living in this fallen world enjoyable, not just tolerable?

Why is it vital that our faith in His faithfulness show up in tangible and practical ways?

Why must we recall that even our good works are a byproduct of His faithfulness (vs 20-21)?

