

Hebrews 12:18-13:25

Contrast the sights, sounds, and symbols of the two mountains of 12:18-24.

For what did the blood of Abel call? (Genesis 4:8-13)

For what does the blood of Jesus call? (Matthew 26:28, I John 1:7)

Hebrews demonstrates (repeatedly) the superiority of Jesus. How is what Jesus' blood calls for superior to what Abel's blood calls?

“God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29, Deuteronomy 4:24) – removing that which is shaken. What will not be removed?

Matthew 24:35

I Thessalonians 4:17

II Peter 3:13

How is this truth a joy and blessing to you today?

Hebrews 13:1-6 (along with many other places in God's Word) direct Christians and congregations to practice hospitality. What are some instances in the scriptures of hospitality shown to strangers, angels, and God Himself? (i.e. Genesis 18, Matthew 25)

What are some ways we practice hospitality today?

What benefits would society in general enjoy if the exhortations of verse 4 were followed?

“Be content” – what erodes or destroys contentment?

Consider spiritual leaders in your life – individually, by name – what qualities of their faith would you like to imitate?

Who around you may be looking to imitate your faith?

List a few things that have changed in the past 50 years. How does the truth that Jesus “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” bring comfort?

Hebrews 13:9 urges “Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings”. What are some “strange teachings” among Christians today?

By what are we to be strengthened? How (specifically today) can we be strengthened in this way?

What are some ways you have suffered disgrace, humiliation, or embarrassment for Jesus' sake? (13:13)?

What two ways are we called to bring sacrifice according to 13:15-16?

13:17 Why should we obey our spiritual leaders? (Hebrews 13:7, Acts 20:28) When should we not obey leaders?

What advantage comes from full and cheerful cooperation of the congregation (even when you may not agree with a certain direction or decision)?

13:18-19 What might your spiritual leaders want you to pray specifically for them?

In the final words of blessing (13:20-25) the writer of Hebrews refers to “God of peace” “blood of the eternal covenant” “Great Shepherd” (and other places, Lamb of God). To what do all these titles point?

What do you need most to be equipped to “for doing His will”?

How might you write greetings today similar to 13:22-25?