

A BRAND-NEW SERIES BY DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

SPIRITUAL FITNESS

STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH IN TROUBLED TIMES

A STUDY OF HEBREWS 11-13

HOW TO TREAT YOUR NEXT PASTOR

HEBREWS 13:7, 17

OCTOBER 25, 2020

Introduction: As we conclude our series in Hebrews, we are going to discover one practical – but often overlooked – way to stay on track in our relationship with God.

I. Our Respect For Past Leaders (Hebrews 13:7)

Hebrews 13:7 “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

II. Leaders In The Present (Hebrews 13:17)

A. The Difficulty of This Command

1. Our natural resistance to authority

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

2. The possible abuse of authority

Matthew 15:1-14 ¹ “Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² ‘Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’ ³ And He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,” and, “HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.”’ ⁵ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God,” ⁶ he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:

⁸ “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. ⁹ BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.” ¹⁰ After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, ‘Hear and understand. ¹¹ It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, that defiles the man.’ ¹² Then the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?’ ¹³ But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.’”

B. The Meaning of This Command (Hebrews 13:17)

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

1. Who?

1 Peter 5:1-4 ¹ “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

2. What?

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

3. Why?

Hebrews 13:17 “...for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”