

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 13:1-9, Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What practical things should Christians be doing to demonstrate their love for Christ?*
Hebrews 13:1
Hebrews 13:2
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Hebrews 13:5-6
2. *How does getting our picture right about Jesus affect the way we engage the practical lessons of Hebrews 13:1-6?*
3. *In the context of Hebrews 13 why are we told that Jesus does not change?*
4. *How does Hebrews 13:8 fit into the message of Hebrews 13:4-7? How does Hebrews 13:8 speak to you in the circumstances of your life?*
5. *Why is it important for believers to have good doctrine (Hebrews 13:9)?*
6. *Hebrews 13:9 speaks of our heart being strengthened by grace – what does this mean? Note that the correct expression is “**established with grace.**” The NIVs are wrong, as usual.*

Devotional Questions – Hebrews 13:1-9, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Hebrews* pp 334-354 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1615-1616 for detailed comments.

1. What practical things should Christians be doing to demonstrate their love for Christ?

The Lord Himself set out the first of these practical steps with respect to obedience to what the Lord Jesus Christ has *said*.

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” John 14:21.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” John 14:23.

Note that modern versions alter John 14:23 to take away the emphasis on individual *words*, NKJV, or to remove the emphasis on ***“The words of the LORD”*** Psalm 12:6 altogether, 1984 NIV, 2011 NIV. They should be aware of John's warning.

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” Revelation 22:19.

Revelation 22:19 does not apply only to the Book of Revelation. The Book of Revelation is ***“the words of this prophecy”*** Revelation 1:3. ***“The words of the book of this prophecy”*** are ***“all scripture”*** that ***“is given by inspiration of God”*** 2 Timothy 3:16 i.e. ***“the book.”***

Returning to Hebrews 13:

Hebrews 13:1

“Let brotherly love continue.” Note that ***“brotherly love”*** is exclusively a Pauline expression, occurring only three times in scriptures, the other two times in the Pauline Epistles. See below. This is another pointer to Paul as the writer of Hebrews 13 and Hebrews 1-12. See ***Appendix - The Most Likely Author, Paul “the forerunner” Hebrews 6:20.***

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” Romans 12:10.

“But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another” 1 Thessalonians 4:9.

By letting brotherly love *continue*, the Christian shows his love for the Lord Jesus Christ by *obedience* to Him, see John 14:21, 23, that in turn yields a *good testimony* to ***“all men.”***

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:34-35.

By being ***“kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love”*** Romans 12:10 the Christian shows his love for the Lord Jesus Christ *by following the Lord's example* which is ***“in honour preferring one another”*** Romans 12:10 and ***“by love serve one another”*** Galatians 5:13.

“For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth” Luke 22:27.

By loving one another, the Christian shows his love for the Lord Jesus Christ by *a willingness to be “taught of God”* 1 Thessalonians 4:9 *and thereby be the Lord's faithful disciple.*

“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” John 6:45.

Note that Paul also says of “**brotherly love**” Hebrews 13:1 **“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”** 1 Thessalonians 3:12 i.e. that love amongst the brethren should grow. However, the emphasis of Hebrews 13:1 appears to be on continuance as a mark of true discipleship, as the Lord Himself indicated and as Paul himself exhorted the Hebrews with respect to their very salvation.

“Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations” Luke 22:28.

“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end” Hebrews 3:14.

Hebrews 13:2

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers...”

By remembering to entertain strangers, the Christian shows his love for Christ *directly* insofar as, *practically speaking, the Lord Himself could be among the strangers i.e. “angels unaware.”*

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:... Verily I say unto you, *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*” Matthew 25:35, 40.

Note again that this is a *practical, not doctrinal*, application. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1285-1288.

Hebrews 13:3

“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.”

By remembering “*them that are in bonds*” and “*them which suffer adversity*” the Christian shows his love for Christ *because he is ministering to “the body of Christ, and members in particular”* 1 Corinthians 12:27 as Paul explains.

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that *the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it*” 1 Corinthians 12:25-26.

That is in part why this writer keeps up a regular correspondence, 80+ letters so far, with Bro.’s Edwards and Riolo in Attica State Prison, New York State. See **Appendix - Prison Epistle**.

Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but *whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*”

By honouring marriage the Christian shows his love for Christ *in that he honours what the Lord honours and approves “thy righteous judgments”* Psalm 119:7, 62, 106, 160, 164, all five occurrences of the expression “*thy righteous judgments*” in scripture.

“And I say unto you, *Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery*” Matthew 19:9.

No-fault divorce en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No-fault_divorce is not an option according to “*thy righteous judgments.*”

“And the third day *there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage*” John 2:1-2.

The Lord honours marriage because He Himself is to be married. **“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: *for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready*”** Revelation 19:7.

Hebrews 13:5-6

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5.

By eschewing covetousness and exercising contentment, the Christian shows his love for the Lord Jesus Christ *by maintaining faith in Him to provide all that is needful.*

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

2. *How does getting our picture right about Jesus affect the way we engage the practical lessons of Hebrews 13:1-6?*

Paul explains how *“the new man...after the image of him that created him,”* who is *“in Christ...a new creature”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 is enabled to fulfil the practicalities of Hebrews 13:1-6. The following passage has been highlighted as well as underlined because it is key.

“...seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:...Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” Colossians 3:9-10, 12-14.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the personification of all the attributes listed above. To *“put on the new man”* is to ask God to manifest *“Christ in you, the hope of Glory”* Colossians 1:27 consistently.

3. *In the context of Hebrews 13 why are we told that Jesus does not change?*

These are the Lord’s unchanging attributes in the context of Hebrews 13.

- *His Faithfulness.* The Lord will stick with you. **“for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”** Hebrews 13:5. Note also this Old Testament promise that also applies for a New Testament believer.

“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” Lamentations 3:22-23.

- *His Guardianship.* The Lord will look after you. **“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”** Hebrews 13:6. Note also this Old Testament promise that also applies for a New Testament believer.

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” Psalm 34:7. Note the common expression *“round about.”*

See www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/bible-phrases-sayings.html. The list is not exhaustive.

- *His Vindication.* The Lord will reward you. **“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation”** Hebrews 13:7, *“conversation”* being both *“seeing and hearing”* 2 Peter 2:7-8 i.e. *“manner of life”* Acts 26:4, 2 Timothy 3:10. Paul has already referred to the Lord’s reward for faithful ministry.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” Hebrews 6:10.

Note that *“the end of their conversation”* is *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”* Hebrews 13:8, as Paul explains:

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ” Philippians 3:8.

- ***His Truth and Grace.*** The Lord can and will bestow them upon you because ***“grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”*** John 1:17. **“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein”** Hebrews 13:9. John prays for believers that they will have grace and truth from the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” 2 John 3.

By way of example, though martyred, William Tyndale nevertheless ***“was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth”*** Revelation 2:13 and clearly the recipient of all the Lord’s attributes listed above, as even Wikipedia effectively acknowledges.

In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and jailed in the castle of [Vilvoorde](#) (Filford) outside [Brussels](#) for over a year. In 1536 he was convicted of heresy and executed by strangulation, after which his body was burnt at the stake. His dying request that the King of England’s eyes would be opened seemed to find its fulfilment just two years later with Henry’s authorization of [The Great Bible](#) for the Church of England — which was largely Tyndale’s own work. Hence, the [Tyndale Bible](#), as it was known, continued to play a key role in spreading [Reformation](#) ideas across the English-speaking world and eventually, on the global [British Empire](#). His version also worked prominently into the [Geneva Bible](#) which was taken to the New World to [Jamestown](#) in 1607, and on the [Mayflower](#) in 1620. Notably, in 1611, the 54 independent scholars who created the [King James Version](#), drew significantly from Tyndale, as well as translations that descended from his. One estimate suggests the [New Testament](#) in the King James Version is 83% Tyndale’s, and the [Old Testament](#) 76%.



William Tyndale 1494-1536
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Tyndale

“I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!” – Tyndale to a rabid papist

Because of ***“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”*** Hebrews 13:8, William Tyndale was ***“valiant for the truth upon the earth”*** Jeremiah 9:3 and he did ***“win Christ”*** Philippians 3:8, praying for his killers as the Lord did, Luke 23:34. Given that Paul exhorts **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”** 1 Corinthians 11:1, today’s believer should obey the Lord’s exhortation and ***“Go, and do thou likewise”*** Luke 10:37 and seek to ***“win Christ.”***

4. *How does Hebrews 13:8 fit into the message of Hebrews 13:4-7? How does Hebrews 13:8 speak to you in the circumstances of your life?*

See *Question 1* on John 14:23, Hebrews 13:4 and *Question 3*. Today’s believer should aim to ***“win Christ”*** Philippians 3:8 as Paul testified and as Tyndale did. As indicated above, to ***“win Christ”*** is that the Christian keeps the Lord’s words, plural, and [the Christian shows his love for Christ in that he honours what the Lord honours and approves](#) ***“thy righteous judgments”*** Psalm 119:7, 62, 106, 160, 164.

Paul explains as follows, with respect to intercessory and personal prayer, which also has application to *Question 1* and ***“brotherly love”*** Hebrews 13:1:

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ” Philippians 1:9-10.

To “win Christ” therefore, today’s believer should be willing to rebuke or at least resist pompous religious charlatans as Tyndale did, see above, and as the Lord did ***“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”*** Matthew 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29, seven references in all, indicating *God’s perfect rebuke* – see *Bible Numerics* pp 23-27 by Dr Peter S. Ruckman.

He should also be willing as the Lord said to **“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s”** Matthew 22:21, which includes making **“first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks...for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”** 1 Timothy 2:1-2, which Tyndale did by his prayer at his execution i.e. state-sponsored murder. Tyndale’s prayer, it should be noted, *was answered*. See above.

That is to “win Christ” as Paul exhorted in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, a 24/7 relationship, not just the occasional visit e.g. at a church meeting.

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”

5. *Why is it important for believers to have good doctrine (Hebrews 13:9)?*

The reasons for the importance of believers having “good doctrine” include:

- *The importance of keeping God’s laws.* **“For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law”** Proverbs 4:2. See remarks above in *Question 4* with respect to Matthew 22:21 and note Paul’s and Peter’s exhortation to *today’s believers* on keeping God’s laws.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” Romans 13:1.

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:...Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king” 1 Peter 2:13-15, 17. Note that “*Love the brotherhood*” matches “*Let brotherly love continue*” Hebrews 13:1.

- *The importance of being “sound in the faith”* Titus 1:13 both for oneself and to be “a good minister of Jesus Christ.” **“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained”** 1 Timothy 4:6 i.e. Timothy had mastered “good doctrine” such that he was fit to be put “into the ministry” 1 Timothy 1:12. Proverbs 4:2 and 1 Timothy 4:6 are the only occurrences of the expression “good doctrine” in scripture.
- *The importance of avoiding and/or refuting “divers and strange doctrines”* Hebrews 13:9 so that others can be “sound in the faith” Titus 1:13. This is why the Lord promised to **“give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding”** Jeremiah 3:15, as Paul further explains.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:...That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” Ephesians 4:11-12, 14-15. This passage should also be highlighted.

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” Titus 1:9. This passage should also be highlighted. Note that the expression **“sound doctrine”** occurs only four times in scripture, all occurrences in the Pauline Epistles; 1 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1.

6. *Hebrews 13:9 speaks of our heart being strengthened by grace – what does this mean?* Note that the correct expression is **“established with grace.”** The NIVs are wrong, as usual.

Paul explains first with respect to drawing a distinction between the spiritual and the physical*.

*Halal slaughter exemplifies **“meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein”** Hebrews 13:9. See skepticalprobe.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/halal-meat-production-brutal-or-humane.html.

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” Romans 14:17.

The heart is **“established with grace”** by means of **“Christ in you, the hope of Glory”** Colossians 1:27, because **“grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”** John 1:17, *Questions 2, 3*. It may then show forth **“righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** i.e. **“giving glory to God”** Romans 4:20 **“in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake”** 2 Corinthians 12:10. As David says, with respect to a *spiritual*, not a *physical* establishment of the heart **“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies”** Psalm 112:7-8.

In sum, the heart **“established with grace”** is *fixed firm on and by* **“Christ in you, the hope of Glory”** Colossians 1:27, *Question 2* and not swayed by *bad news* Psalm 112:7, *infirmities, opposition, deprivations*, 2 Corinthians 12:10, *afflictions* 1 Thessalonians 3:2, *temptations* 1 Thessalonians 3:5, **“divers and strange doctrines”** Hebrews 13:9 i.e. **“doctrines of devils”** 1 Timothy 4:1 or by Satan himself, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8, 9. These are really means for today’s believers **“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”** Romans 15:6 **“in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”** 1 Corinthians 6:20 in turn **“that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction”** 1 Corinthians 7:35.

Note again Tyndale, *Question 3*, who went to the place of execution with **“heart...established with grace”** such that by faith in prayer he did **“see his desire upon his enemies”** notably King Henry VIII who only two years after Tyndale’s death i.e. murder did authorize the Great Bible for the Church of England, largely Tyndale’s work and faithful precursor to the 1611 King James Authorized Holy Bible. See also:

www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ *The Purification of the Lord’s word – Psalm 12:6-7*

www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php *Seven Stage Purification Process - Oil Refinery - in answer to the AV1611 Critics.*

Only with a *spiritual*, not a *physical* establishment of the heart could Tyndale have achieved his testimony.

Paul then explains the *means* of establishment of grace within the heart. It comes back to believing prayer and steadfastly taking in **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21, the AV1611.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” Hebrews 4:16.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” Colossians 3:16.

Note the accompanying practical help with respect to **“the word of Christ”** Colossians 3:16, courtesy of www.navigators.org/us/resources/:



shows five very important methods of learning from the Bible.

Hearing

Romans 10:17. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Reading

Revelation 1:3. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy..."

Studying

Acts 17:11. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Memorizing

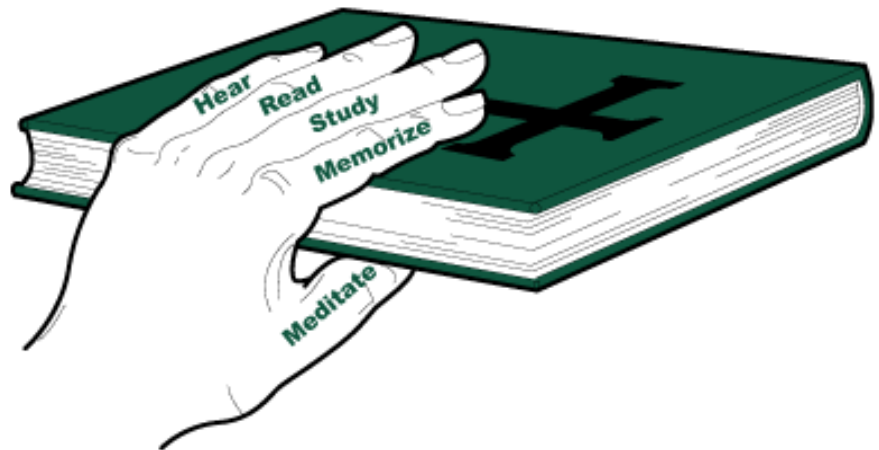
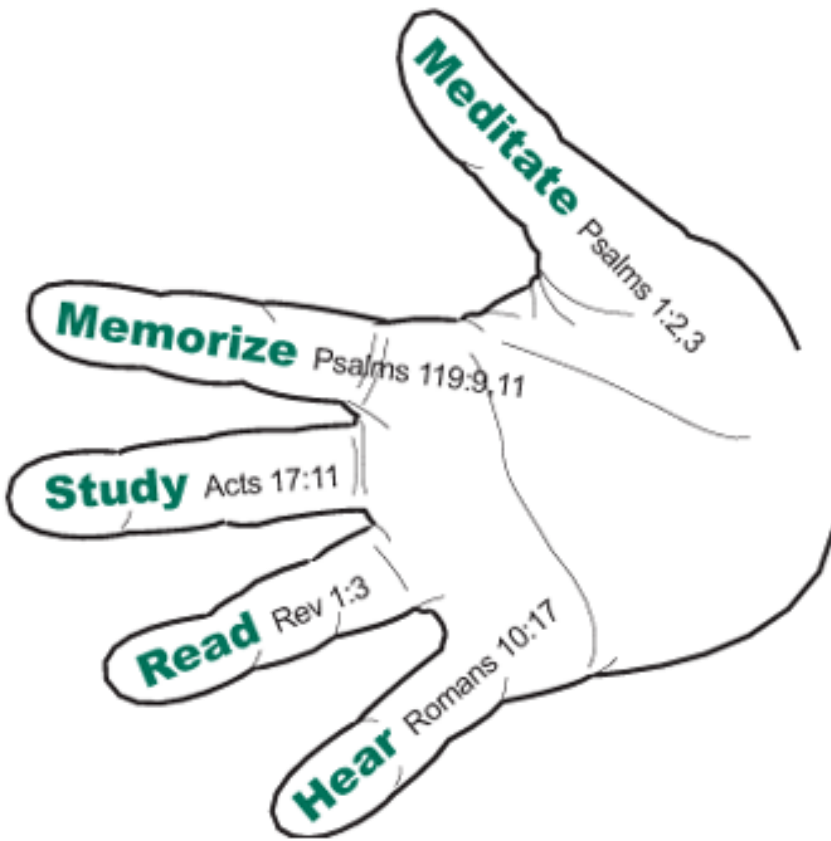
Psalm 119:9, 11. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word...Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Note especially that after 24 hours you may accurately remember:

- 5% of what you hear
- 15% of what you read
- 35% of what you study
- But **100%** of what you actually *memorise*.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" Acts 20:32.

See next page for accompanying graphics.



The Word Hand - Visuals

Appendix – The Most Likely Author, Paul “*the forerunner*” Hebrews 6:20

From www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Hebrews, God, Author, Patriarch, Israel* - What saith the Scripture pp 2-3

The scripture shows that Paul is definitely “*the forerunner*” for the authorship of Hebrews:

- *The writer’s use of the word “God” Hebrews 1:1*
See remarks under “*The most high God*” Hebrews 7:1 and Paul’s use of the word “*God*” that testifies to Paul as “*the forerunner*” Hebrews 6:20 for writing Hebrews.
It should be noted that Paul has the word “*God*” in the opening verse of each New Testament Epistle stated to have been written by him with the exception of Philippians and Philemon i.e. in 11 out of 13 Epistles. That is a considerable emphasis.
- *The writer’s heart for Israel, Romans 9:1-3, 10:1*
God’s concern for Israel shapes Paul’s concern, another pointer to Paul as the writer of Hebrews i.e. “*to the Jew first*” Romans 1:16. “*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*” Romans 9:1-3, 10:1. Paul’s heart for Israel makes him “*the forerunner*” for writing Hebrews.
- *The writer’s reference to God’s promise that Sara would give birth, Hebrews 11:11*
“*For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son*” Romans 9:9 with Romans 4:19-20 and Galatians 4:22-23.
- *The writer’s mastery of “the Jews’ religion” Galatians 1:14*
Paul “*...profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers*” Galatians 1:14. No-one could write Hebrews better than Paul on the basis of Old Testament understanding.
- *The writer’s apparent identity as “an Hebrew of the Hebrews” Philippians 3:5*
Paul was “*an Hebrew of the Hebrews*” Philippians 3:5. Who else could write Hebrews better than Paul – for God’s and His people’s gain, not Paul’s, Philippians 3:7?
- *The writer’s reference to “conscience” Hebrews 9:9, 14, 10:2, 22, 13:18*
The term “*conscience*” occurs 32 times in the New Testament and 21 times in Romans-Philemon i.e. Paul’s known letters. It is overwhelmingly a Pauline expression.
- *The writer’s reference to “the God of peace” Hebrews 13:20*
The expression “*the God of peace*” is wholly Paul’s. It occurs 5 times in scripture, the other 4 times all in Paul’s known letters; Romans 15:33, 16:20, Philippians 4:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
- *The writer’s reference to “our brother Timothy” Hebrews 13:23*
As will be explained, the content of Hebrews 1-12 suggests that Paul wrote those chapters soon after his conversion, in approximately 35 A.D. Paul then appears to have added Hebrews 13 almost thirty years after writing Hebrews 1-12, towards the end of his life and ministry, as the reference to “*our brother Timothy*” Hebrews 13:23 shows. Note especially “*Timothy our brother*” 2 Corinthians 1:1, Philemon 1, “*Timotheus our brother*” Colossians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 3:2 matching Hebrews 13:23.
- *The writer’s unchanged identity, from Hebrews 1-12 to Hebrews 13*
Paul’s authorship of Hebrews 13 must make him “*the forerunner*” Hebrews 6:20 for having written the rest of the Book, in that in the known Pauline Epistles, any direct contribution from another writer is specified. See Romans 16:22 and the salutation by Tertius. “*I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.*”

- ***“The token in every epistle” 2 Thessalonians 3:17***

2 Thessalonians 3:17-18 refer to ***“The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”***

Paul’s “token” in his letters was the grace that he extended to his readers that also denotes that he was the author. Peter, 1 Peter 5:14 and John, 3 John 14, by contrast, extended “peace.”

This token with respect to “grace” may be found at or near the end of all of Paul’s other letters known to have been written by him. Therefore note especially Hebrews 13:25. ***“Grace be with you all. Amen”*** identical with Titus 3:15.

Paul therefore clearly wrote Hebrews 13 according to his token of grace to his readers, again making him ***“the forerunner”*** Hebrews 6:20 for the authorship of Hebrews.

Paul’s authorship of Hebrews 13 is why the King’s men entitled the Book *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews*. What follows further is the most compelling piece of evidence to show that Paul wrote Hebrews 1-12 *early in his conversion i.e. 35 A.D.*

- ***Paul a type of “the man child” Revelation 12:13***

Paul is like ***“the man child”*** in several respects. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php *Hebrews 1 Study, God, Paul, Melchisedec, Israel* pp 10-12 and the *Summary study* p 4. Crucially, Paul is the only New Testament writer to be in the wilderness, like the man child. Note that in what follows ***“The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD”*** is ***“the man child”*** Revelation 12:13.

“Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness. The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen” Lamentations 4:19-20.

Note now the scriptures that show Paul in the wilderness like ***“the man child”*** Revelation 12:13.

“as the Arabian in the wilderness...thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness” Jeremiah 3:2. Despite the negative connotation Paul was ***“as the Arabian in the wilderness”***:

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace...I went into Arabia” Galatians 1:15, 17. Note also the reference to Paul’s *physical* birth as ***“a man child”*** Revelation 12:5.

Paul appears then to have used his time in Arabia early in his conversion to write Hebrews 1-12 ***“to the Jew first”*** Romans 1:16 to prepare him for ***“the time of Jacob’s trouble”*** Jeremiah 30:7, *when Israel is in “the wilderness”* Revelation 12:14. Note that the Book is written to *Hebrews, not Hebrew Christians or Christian Jews etc.*

The association therefore between ***“the man child”*** Revelation 12:13 during ***“the time of Jacob’s trouble”*** Jeremiah 30:7, Paul and aspects of Hebrews 1-12 on salvation during ***“the time of Jacob’s trouble,”*** to be addressed, show that Paul is the ***“the forerunner”*** Hebrews 6:20 for writing Hebrews. *He is definitely best man for the job.*

Lessons for the Christian – Paul, best man for the job, God’s calling and faithfulness

God calling Paul to write Hebrews shows the Christian that whatever *his* calling, ***“according to the power that worketh in us”*** Ephesians 3:20, *he, like Paul, is the best man for it:*

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Paul’s writing of Hebrews spanned his lifelong 30-year ministry, *proving that God is faithful:*

“And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” 2 Timothy 4:18.

Appendix - Prison Epistle

“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body” Hebrews 13:3.

Extracts from a letter from Bro. Jack Riolo, a ‘lifer’ in Attica State Prison, New York, transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ and the Book, the KJB. Scripture references, including Hebrews 13:3 and some edits/notes have been inserted separately. I’ve been corresponding with Bro. David, who is referred to, for some years – Alan O’R.

Attica State Prison
June 2011

Dear Bro. O’Reilly

Praise the Lord. I pray God all is well there in the UK. We continue to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ [2 Timothy 2:3]. Bro. David has asked me to carry the ball for a little bit as he is in what is called here behind the wall “*the snake pit.*” It seems [that] the Superintendent’s (Warden’s) Lieutenant, who [David] had a past with delivered him up for envy [Mark 15:10]. David was set up and given 3 charges which he disproved but was found guilty on all 3 and given 90 days in the pit...

It was a blow to our ministry. He lost Honour Block where we [were housed] together for years. David and I have been ministering the word here since 1998. We are now separated for the 1st time in 13 years. I am entering my 17th year incarcerated and David is my only friend. I tell people we are like Jonathan and David in the Book of Samuel. I was in a cult years back for 17 years. I murdered a man to prove my loyalty to God. My church was not just a Pentecostal church...the people [in it were] a cult. We were Jim Jones without the Cool-Aid. We looked for a place to separate ourselves also. The Lord exposed the church and the pastor got 18 to 55 years in prison. I was his right-hand man and did his dirty work. It was pathetic. When I met David I was still in the cult and David untwisted my brains and I became a Bible Baptist and have served the Lord and him all these years. I got my 1st KJV after my conversion and was reading Dr Ruckman’s [President of PBI, Pensacola Bible Institute, FL] books insatiably. I read his entire library and made notes in my Bible. I gave my broadsword [Ephesians 6:17] to David with all my love like Jonathan surrendered his armour [1 Samuel 18:4]...

I continue to pray faithfully for you and Gill, Dave and Mike. I have your letter from September 1st 2010 with prayer requests which has been on my bunk before God every night faithfully in prayer since you mailed it. One day we will meet in glory and rejoice. This light affliction is but for a moment [2 Corinthians 4:17]...

A Bible Baptist Bible Study is established here at Attica. We have 5-7 men attending out of a population of 2000-2500 here. They are Moslems and Catholics and Protestants, oneness here. No-one hardly wants the truth. It took 3 or 4 years to get the class and we have had it going for 5 years now. We have 6 men who come to teach. Most are PBI grads under Dr Ruckman...

Please keep [us] in prayer. If you write, naturally use discretion as this is all part of the battle here. They [the prison staff] hate David and myself. We are a stinking savour to these men [2 Corinthians 2:16]. They monitor phones and all else. They might be flagging David’s mail so he has me writing. Let the Lord be magnified [Psalm 35:27].

Please give my best to all there especially to your wife. I hope David is doing his Post-Grad work in England?...God bless all [of you]. I pray God will reunite me with my partner in the ministry. Please be well.

In Christ
Bro. Jack