



Session

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CONTINUE TO GROW

Hebrews 12–13

Hebrews 12–13 help believers grow in their understanding of who God is and how God wants us to live. Remember, the Book of Hebrews is all about Jesus. As our example, Jesus showed what living for God is all about. Hebrews 12 opens by reminding the reader that those who came before, namely those mentioned in chapter 11, were also witnesses of God's goodness. Since those people showed through their faith a belief in God, we can also set aside the sins by which we are enslaved and run the race of the Christian life with perseverance. We should keep our eyes on Jesus, the "perfecter" of our faith. Jesus makes our faith completely expressible because of His death on the cross.

God disciplines His people to bring about holiness. The writer of Hebrews told the church that discipline comes as God desires to shape His people into what He needs them to be. When Christians try to flee God's discipline, we are not honoring God and His desire to build us into spiritually mature people. Once again, the solution to living an honoring life for God is our obedience to Him in all He says to do.

The remainder of the Book of Hebrews focuses on practical applications to the teaching that came before. How can one walk a straight path? Live in peace with all men and be holy. Live lives of peacemaking, love, and have an appreciation of the grace God showed to us when Jesus died on the cross. Complete obedience to the Word of God brings peace. Rejection of the Word of God brings death.

Breaking from the traditional greeting of other letters, the Book of Hebrews offers the customary closing remarks. The writer of Hebrews offers greetings and shares a closing charge to faithfulness. The writer summarizes the letter he has written by encouraging the readers, once again, to continue to grow in love, hospitality, and prayer. Also reminding those who are placed in leadership, to faithfully share God's message to shape believers' identities in Christ.