

# Studies in Hebrews



## Lesson XXIII

**Text:** Chapter 13:1-8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Keep on loving each other as brothers. <sup>2</sup> Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

<sup>4</sup> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

<sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?' <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

**Footnotes:** a. Deuteronomy 31:6 b. Psalm 118:6, 7

## Questions for Group Discussions

1. If your first impression of Christianity came by way of the principles you read and saw faithfully practiced in verses 1-8, what things could you safely conclude about these people called *Christians*? More specifically, what values, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs would you observe in early church culture?

2. How important is verse 1 to the integrity of our testimony and the credibility of the church? Practically speaking, how can you and I contribute to the spirit of brotherly love in this congregation?
  
3. Does our love extend beyond the reach of the church? If so, how? If not, why? (verse 2)
  
4. Most people would never want a prison in their community and often wage campaigns to keep prisons from being built. Would you ever set foot in a prison to minister to a prisoner? How do you feel about the fact that Christians still suffer in some parts of the world and are even imprisoned for their faith? What does verse 3 direct the church to do about it?
  
5. Why are verses 4 and 5a so relevant to contemporary society?
  
6. When do we most need to remember the encouraging words of verses 5b and 6? How can this help us make it through the tough times?
  
7. Throughout history, there have been eras of strong leadership and eras in which "every man did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6). What era do we live in? How can the church produce wise, courageous, compassionate leaders? (verse 7; cf. 2 Timothy 2:2)
  
8. What does verse 8 mean and why is it so important today?