

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING | VV. 1-7

- Let brotherly love continue –v. 1
  - Beginning in 13:1, the writer gives some instruction on how to **serve God acceptably** (12:28). The first instruction is to **let brotherly love continue**.
  - **Brotherly love** is φιλαδελφία [philadelphia] from φίλος [philos] and ἀδελφός [adelphos]. The Greek *philos* is "friend" or "tangible love" and *adelphos* is "brother."
- Show hospitality to strangers –v. 2
  - The kind of hospitality:
    - The word φιλοξενία [philoxenia] is from *philos* (see v. 1) and *xenos* (stranger / foreigner).
    - Paul also instructed the Romans to be "given to hospitality" (Rom 12:13), using the same word.
    - It is clearly a word that is for **strangers**, not regular companions (as opposed to v. 1).
  - The entertainment of angels-
    - As in chapter 1, this word always demands an interpretation: is it a reference to *earthly messengers* or *spiritual beings*.
    - The writer likely had some specific instance in mind, but we do not know what instance this was.
    - Assuming that the writer is referring to angelic beings, does this continue to happen in this age in which the Kingdom is not being offered? If so, we are still **unawares**, and should practice hospitality to strangers in any circumstance.
- Remember fellow believers who are suffering in prison for their faith –v. 3
  - This is likely those **that are in bonds** due to their faith, not prisoners in general.
- Keep marriage holy – v. 4
  - Paul had taught that "the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9). The judgments given in this chapter are related to Kingdom judgment, not to eternal salvation, though every believer should abide by this kind of righteous living.
- Avoid fascination with material benefits –vv. 5-6
  - The word **conversation** is literally, "your way."
    - The Greek τρόπος [tropos] is "turning" and thus, by implication, the path you take, with all its turns.
    - We get the English "tropics" from this, because the "tropic" is the line at which the path of the sun "turns."
  - The word **covetousness** is literally, "without love of silver."
  - Since all of the Hebrew believers of Jerusalem had sold all their possessions (Acts 4:32), and an offering had to be taken for these same people (2 Corinthians 8-9), **such things as ye have** were likely very slim, yet they were to **be content**. Since they had personal possessions, the teaching to sell everything had long been abandoned (probably about the time of the death of Stephen).
  - **I will never leave thee nor forsake thee** - From Deuteronomy 31:6.
  - **The Lord is my helper...** - From Ps. 118:6, which, in context, is Israel praising God for bringing her safely through the Tribulation.

- Verse 7–
  - **Remember them...** - More literally, "Be mindful of those leading you" (YLT). Additional instruction is given in v. 17.
  - **Who have spoken unto you the word** - This clarifies the leadership, speaking of the spiritual leaders, likely a reference to James and Peter.
  - In Greek, **considering the end of their conversation** comes first, thus a literal translation would be, "considering the end of their conversation, imitate their faith."
  - See note on v. 5 for **conversation**.

#### A DOCTRINAL INSTRUCTION | VV. 8-9

- Verse 8–
  - This beautiful phrase contains no verb (as in KJV), and is likely a clause, not a full sentence, which serves as the foundation to the instruction of v. 9.
  - If this interpretation is accurate, then v. 8 should end with a comma, not a period. (Note: All punctuation in the Bible is supplied by translators and should always be questioned).
- Verse 9–
  - Grammatically, the sentence would be, "Jesus Christ, [being] the same yesterday, today and forever, [therefor] be not carried about..."
  - **Strange** - This is the Greek ξένος [xenos], "foreign." See note on v. 2 where *philoxenia* is used.
  - **Not with meats...** - This is likely a symbolic reference to a teaching that was not taught by Jesus Christ but was now being taught among the Hebrews. It could have been directly related to **meats**, or meats may be used symbolically of the **divers and strange doctrines**. The Greek word for **meats** is general, referring to any food or nourishment.