

“What Child is This?”

Heb 13:5-15

December 15, 2024

INTRO... A Christmas Message at a Distance

Heb 12:1-3

The Jesus I NEED in the Everyday Moments of My Life...

Heb 13:5-15 ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and **be content** with what you have, for he has said, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**” ⁶ So we can **confidently say**,

“**The Lord is my helper**; I will **not fear**; what can man do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ **Jesus Christ** is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² **So Jesus** also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore **let us go to him** outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴ For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ **Through him** then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that **acknowledge his name**.

Markings Key: This Passage is about: **“Changing our “mental FEEL” & “atmosphere”** ... **“awareness of nearness”** ... **“of a PERSON”**

v. 5 ... Money in the Everyday Spaces of Life...

...“money” is more in our lives than currency or stacks of cash or digital amounts of Bitcoin! ...it is a **MEANS** to various **ENDS**! ...It is a means of interrupting life's **BOREDOM**! ...It has the power to provide **DISTRACTION** ...It has access to “**NEW**” (new places, people, & experiences) ...It interacts with Our **NEEDS** ...It Provides **SECURITY & SAFETY**

“We thought we were dealing with money—paper currency and coins. But in fact, underneath we’re dealing with the pleasures and advantages money can buy, or the status money can signify. And then we realize, no, that’s not the bottom, because underneath that is covetousness, greed, fear, and cravings for safety, prestige or control. Then again, no, that’s not the bottom either, because the Bible teaches us that there is another reality—a condition of the heart—deeper than all those sins. We realize that this thing called money or sex or power is like the fraction of an iceberg we can see above the water. It’s not the problem. What we can see isn’t going to sink our boat. It’s those massive, jagged, saw-tooth ridges of sin below the waterline that will put a gash in the hull and send us to the bottom of the ocean.” **Piper, John**. Living in the Light: Money, Sex and Power (pp. 13-14)

...When Money is a “**MEANS**”, a “**SOURCE**”, the “**PROVIDER**” of Pleasure, Security, Safety ...IT has Taken On **GOD-LIKE** Features in the “**Race of Our Lives**” ...which makes us powerfully vulnerable to deception and to **FEAR**!

v. 6 ...Then, **2 Big Powerful Words** (loaded with "Feeling"/"Atmosphere"/"Outlook") come into Our Conversation with Our Life Experience! ... **"CONFIDENCE"** (Courage) ...&... **"FEAR"**

"Confidently"- **tharréō** (Gk.) [to be confident, courageous] this word has the basic sense 'to dare,' 'to be bold,' 'to be of good courage,' 'to be cheerful or confident,' and then a. 'to trust in,' 'rely on,' and b. 'to go out bravely to.' ...the LXX uses the term as a summons in time of stress or emergency, and God's readiness to help is the basis. God himself issues the summons in Hag. 2:5; Zech. 8:13; he stakes himself by way of guarantee. (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

...Something Causes/Awakens a **CONFIDENT** Attitude!! ...What is it HERE? => "I Will Never Leave You!!"

Haggai 2:1-5 ¹ In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: ² "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³ 'Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴ Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not.**" [**tharréō** in LXX]

...'Strength', 'courage', 'boldness', 'daring steps' (in Zerubbabel/Joshua's, My Race) ...These are all dependent on my awareness and engagement with the Presence of God WITH Me!!

Heb 13:5-6 ⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

"Fear is Definitely a Factor"

So... I need "Courage" to run the race set before me!! ...and I need a Remedy to Fear that Plagues the Fallen Human Being! ...Where's That Going to Come From?

(1) The PATHOLOGY of FEAR

FEAR came eagerly and aggressively crashing through the door that was left opened by Human Corruption, Sin, & Independence from God!—"Fear" is Directly Related to DISTANCE from God!

Gen 3:7-10 ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid..."

THIS is "Moment 0" of Sin & Corruption!

(2) The CURE of FEAR—CONFIDENCE!

"Confident, Courageous, Fear-Conquering Race Running comes from: (a.) a Person and His Presence ... (b.) Accurately Understanding the Grace of God!

Heb 13:5-6, 8ff ⁵...he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" [v. 7 - a reference to leaders who do this exercise of faith] ...⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened **by grace**...

(a.) Confidence in a Person and His Presence

...Where does modern man find his confidence in life?

...It Needs a Particular Person who has Particular Power Over Creation and Who Accomplished Particular Things that were Vital to Our Eternal Existence!

REMEMBER ...the Problem for the Christian isn't with "whether this PERSON exists" ...the problem is His "Nearness" to Us!!

(b.) CONFIDENCE in the GRACE of God

Confidence for Zerubbabel & Joshua—Haggai 2:4-5 "I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you" —THIS is the 'Content' of the word "GRACE"!!

If we Mistakenly Yoke the Activity & Favor of God in our lives to OUR Abilities, Effort, Success, Smarts, Consistency, Goodness, Creativity, etc. ...then we are Destined to Fail and Destined to Remain in the Grip of Fear and Lose Confidence!

...I've Got to Know that in my 2025 Race—God IS Going to be FOR ME!!

My Confidence is in "THE GRACE OF GOD" ...

Rom 3:20-26 ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Gal 5:4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

Rom 11:5-6 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

NOTE: To Really Gain Confidence and to Proceed Obediently into the Callings of God for Your Race— You Will NEED Biblical Theology! ...That's What is Clearly Displayed in Rom 9!! ...Rom 6-8 is about How we get FREED from enslavement to sin and now get to Walk in NEWNESS of Life!! THEN comes Rom 9 ...This New Life is Yours—BECAUSE of SOVEREIGN GRACE!!

When I Get THIS ...THEN, "my heart is strengthened by grace" (Heb 13:9)

...this impact of understanding "GRACE" means, no matter what your assessment of yourself or this past year in your life contains—I really have NO EXCUSE for not proceeding into the coming year with Courage & Confidence!! ...Because my confidence is in "A Person who is motivated by GRACE" in my life! ...This is HUGE!!