

JOURNEY OF FAITH

# HEBREWS



# **A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS – PART 2**

## **HEBREWS 13:9-17**

Since Jesus Christ never changes, neither can the new covenant that He initiated; and He is the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. **John 1:14**

- Jesus is the unchangeable one. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Heb. 13:8**), as we just saw.
- God's word never changes. Be careful, the passage warns, do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings—things that do not line up with what the Word of God says!
- Case in point, these admonitions against unbiblical doctrine. **1 Tim. 4:16, 6:3-5; Titus 1:9**
- In order to resist “*strange teachings*,” believers must be familiar with the correct teachings found in God’s word. That is the primary purpose of corporate Bible study—exposition, verse-by-verse study.

# ***SOME SERIOUSLY STRANGE DOCTRINES***

Things like *Da Vinci Code*; the *Gospel of Thomas* (aka the 5th Gospel); *Gospel of Phillip* and the *Gospel of Truth*; Discovery Channel mysteries of the Bible; the *Nag Hammadi Library* or aka Gnostic Gospels/Scriptures:

- 1. Writings of creative and redemptive mythology***, including Gnostic alternative versions of creation and salvation.
- 2. Observations and commentaries on diverse Gnostic themes***, such as the nature of reality, the nature of the soul, the relationship of the soul to the world.
- 3. Liturgical and initiatory texts.***
- 4. Writings dealing primarily with the feminine deific*** and spiritual principle, particularly with the Divine Sophia—radical feminism.
- 5. Writings pertaining to the lives and experiences*** of some of the apostles.
- 6. Scriptures which contain “other” sayings of Jesus***, as well as details and descriptions of incidents in His life.

***Not a single one of these codices were adopted by the early church into the canon of Scripture, but they are interesting—and fictional!***

# ALL CULTS FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY AS WELL!

Most of the Pseudo-Christian ones came out of the mid 1800s. Here in the US, most were actually birthed out of the Methodist church; and each has their own extra biblical source of “new revelation of truth.”

1. LDS-Mormons. Founded by Joseph Smith; 3 of their 4 standard works are patently heretical: The Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, The Doctrines and Covenants; they also use the King James Bible.
2. Seventh-day Adventists. Founded by Ellen G. White; rely on the “Resolution on the Spirit of Prophecy” that Mrs. White’s writings contain “divine counsel” and are a source of “guidance, instruction, correction” for the Seventh-day Adventist Church; they also use the King James Bible.
3. Jehovah’s Witnesses. Founded by Charles Taze Russell; have their own bible that only they use, “The New World Translation”—a grossly misleading translation—that is actually not a translation at all, but heresy!
4. Christian Science. Founded by Mary Baker Eddy; is a system of religious thought and practice derived from her writings called *Science & Health With Keys to the Scriptures*, which are neither scientific nor scriptural.

# **NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS v. 10-13**

- Returning to similar arguments used throughout the book, Hebrews again compares Christ and the new covenant with the old covenant.
- The analogies and differences between the Day of Atonement ceremony and Christ's once-for-all sacrifice on the cross, as we saw in **chapters 9 & 10**, are many and varied.
- **The main difference**: Christ's sacrifice could actually make the people holy through His own blood. Christ's sacrifice was final, once and for all. The priests' sacrifices were not final and had to be repeated endlessly.
- To revert to Jewish practices in order to gain God's approval, these people would lose their right to participate in the new covenant; they would have "*no right to eat*" in the new covenant at the Lord's supper. It's either the grace of God or the law of God. **Rom. 8:2-3**

***Christ existed outside of the systemic comfort and security of the Jewish system.  
Grace is a free gift to all who call upon His name.***

## **LOOKING AHEAD! v. 14-15**

The reason given here in Hebrews for joining the suffering of Christ is that this world is not our home.

- This is more than a passing point; it provides a key New Testament theme on our true citizenship.
- This means that we should not be content in or attached to this world, because all that we are and have here is temporary.
- We shouldn't store our treasures here; we should store them in heaven.  
**Matthew 6:19-21**
- God wants us to offer ourselves, not animals, as living sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires so that we can follow Him. We do this out of gratitude that our sins have been forgiven. **Rom. 12:1-2**
- This should result in God receiving our highest praise!

## ***NOW GET TO IT! v. 16-17***

As with all biblical truth, it does us no good to know the truth if we do not put it into practice. We are to be doers! **James 1:22**

- We know that loving service cannot save anyone from sin; rather, it is the overflow of the love of God in a person's heart to the world around us.
- Doing what God's word says enables our voice to be heard loud and clear in a world that is trying to run from Jesus and His grace.
- We need to all be doers of the Word and living sacrifices; will to live our lives for others and then lead others in doing the same. **1 Peter 5:1-5**
- This means there must be unity in our direction and directives. There is exactly one complete set of those according to Scripture, and they are found in the Bible.