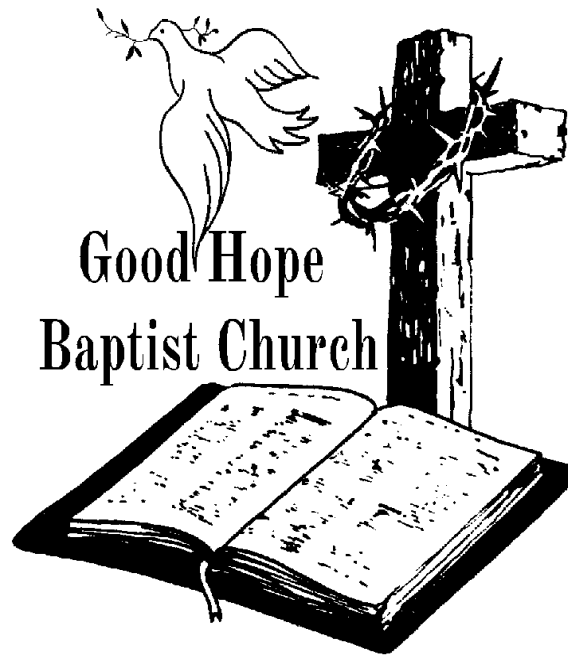


The Lord Is My Helper

Hebrews 13:5-6



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Hebrews 13:5-6 ^(KJV)

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 **So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

A pastor friend by the name of **Joel Malm** recently received a call from *Immigrations and Customs* at Los Angeles Airport. He had just been overseas on missions in Asia. Joel said "**It was harder for me to get back into my own country** {it was so} **unorganized and slow**. He lodged a complaint with the airport, and the "Director of U.S. Customs at LAX" returned his call only to berate him and attack him for complaining.

I'm really not surprised. One thing I learned from the military is that everyone has a boss. If it was me, I believe I'd call the "Director of U.S. Customs at LAX" boss. I don't think that is being belligerent, either. The reason why we as United States Citizens are having to submit to virtual strip searches when we travel through our airports is because *we* have allowed it to be so. The reason why we as Christians are funding - with our tax dollars - abortions through "Planned Parenthood" is because *we* have allowed it to be so.

How can we change the world around us? We must

(1) refuse to be enslaved by riches, to (2) reject the taskmaster of fear, (3) to pursue both the knowledge of and presence of God with all our hearts.

You see all three of these points in our focal verse. Read with me:

I Will Refuse To Be Enslaved By Riches

FOCAL Hebrews 13:5 ^(KJV) **Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have ...**

Word Study The word "conversation" is the Greek word TROPOS. When you hear the word "conversation" you think of "that which you are saying". TROPOS means more than this. TROPOS refers to your whole outlook on life. **Your character, your deportment, what you are thinking about and therefore what you pursue.** What occupies your mind?

For much of the world, **covetousness** and **an inordinate desire to have things** possesses people. For instance, when you walked into this place today, what was first and foremost in your mind? Did you think, "I'm really ready to meet and worship My Lord today", or was it "This is a really nice building. I wonder if the preacher is going to be entertaining, or boring?" Did you look around and notice the empty pews and say to yourself, "I wonder how the Lord could use me in this place?", or did you think "There's a lot bigger Churches with better crowds - I really ought to be there"?

In life you can go with the flow and be part of the crowd, but you'll never make a difference in your world while you approach life from the "What's in it for me"

mentality. The devil uses covetousness and greed to destroy our nation, our businesses, our states, and even our families. In Jesus' parable of the Sower He said, "The Sower sows the Word {of God} ... {but some hear His Word} ...

Mark 4:19 ^(KJV) And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

When covetousness and greed rule the heart the person so ruled *cannot hear God's Word, and will not do God's will*. It is not wrong to earn a living and to take care of your families. In fact, the Bible says:

1 Timothy 5:8 ^(KJV) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

and

2 Thessalonians 3:10 ^(KJV) ... if any would not work, neither should he eat.

God expects His people to work. He expects every one of His creatures to work, for it is hardwired into creation. The earthworm works, tilling the soil and extracting its food. The bird works, coming and finding the unfortunate earthworm that comes too close to the surface. Toil is a part of life - but we must never allow ourselves to be driven by greed.

I Will Reject The Taskmaster Of Fear

FOCAL Hebrews 13:6 ^(KJV) I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Word Study The word "fear" is the Greek PHOBEO. We actually get our word "phobia" from this. A "phobia" is "an anxiety disorder characterized by extreme and irrational fear of things or people, a persistent, irrational fear of a specific object, activity, or situation that leads to a compelling desire to avoid it".

Phobias lead to strange behavior. For instance, following the **suicide attacks by al-Qaeda (September 11, 2001) on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City** fear caused us to demand the government do something about airport security. As a result, we have a **Transportation Security Administration** that practically strip searches every passenger *except those who look like al-Qaeda*. You see, political correctness says "We don't want to single out Muslim people, lest we be considered and called *racist*". So fear starts the TSA, and fear keeps the TSA from targeting the people most likely to bomb more planes.

Fear is an irrational taskmaster.

Illustrate The young girl says "no" to the advances of the young boy. But then he says, "**but all the popular girls are doing it**". Fear of unpopularity leads to an act that is may cause AIDS or HIV, something the child should be *more* afraid of.

Fear is an irrational taskmaster. It leads us to do things we know we ought not to do in order to be part of the *in crowd*.

Illustrate When electric lights were first installed in the White House, **President Benjamin Harrison** and his wife were so afraid of electricity that they refused to touch the light switches. If there were no servants around to turn off the lights when they went to bed, they slept with the lights on.

Fear is an irrational taskmaster. It exposes us to unnecessary discomfort.

Illustrate **Black Bart** was one of the most feared robbers in the early history of the United States. Between 1875 to 1883 he robbed 29 stagecoaches. He was so feared that lawmen refused to chase him. How many people did Black Bart kill and how many hostages did he take to get such a reputation? Absolutely none! Black Bart wore a black mask and black outfit, and used fear and fear alone to overwhelm his victims.

Fear is an irrational taskmaster. It makes us smaller than we ought to be, and robs us of what is rightfully ours.

Illustrate A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she ought to and thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called their family doctor. The doctor said, "**Here's what you do. Stand about 40 feet away from her and speak in a normal voice. If she doesn't hear you, keep moving**

forward and repeating yourself until she responds. Explain to her what you did, then bring her in to see me." That evening the husband tried what the doctor said. Standing about 40 feet away he asked, **"Honey, what's for dinner?"** There was no response, so he moved closer and repeated himself, **"Honey, what's for dinner?"** No reply. Finally he walks right up behind her. **"Honey, what's for dinner?"** She says, **"Chicken, Ralph, for the THIRD time, CHICKEN!"**

Fear is an irrational taskmaster. It causes us to waste our time looking for flaws in others rather than fixing ourselves.

**Embrace The Lord As Both Your Possession
As Well As Your Protector**

Real contentment and peace does not rely on the *things* that you have. It is based on the *state of your heart*. Where is your heart focused?

Illustration Rolling Stone magazine did a survey some time ago to discover what was the **top Rock song** ever. Do you know what it was? **"Like a Rolling Stone"** by Bob Dylan. The second most popular song was **"Can't Get No Satisfaction"**. Listen to the most popular songs on radio and television today. What are they? Songs that speak of discontentment, lost love, hurt lives, purposelessness, and bad decisions made. As Pastor **Greg Laurie** once said:

"Real contentment is not a state of accounts, but a state of heart"

Where is your heart fixed? If your heart is fixed on *things* then discontentment and fear will rule your life. You will be discontented, because in our sinful states *we never have enough*. No matter how much we have, we will always want more. **No parent has to teach a child the word "yes", nor to teach it to be selfish. We are born saying "mine", and as we grow older we often keep on saying "mine"**. But "mine, mine" gives no satisfaction to the soul. What will satisfy us?

FOCAL Read Responsively Hebrews 13:5-6 (KJV)

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

I will only be content when I have ongoing and growing relationship with the Lord. **"He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"**. I will only have freedom from fear as my certainty of God's presence grows. **"The Lord is my Helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me"**.

The Apostle Paul said:

Philippians 4:11-13 ... I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Contentment is something that is *learned*. Paul said "I know how to be abased, how to suffer loss, how to go through the valleys". How did he do that? He **learned Jesus**. Paul grew in his knowledge of Christ by prayer and study of the Lord's Word. He grew in his knowledge by joining together with other saints as he pursued his passion in Christ. Paul said "I can do all things".

Through what? What gives Paul the confidence to do all things, to go through the shadows and pass over the mountaintops of life? Did he say, "I can do all things through my friends?" No. Did he say, "I can do all things through my family?" No. Did he say "I can do all things through a good job?" No, not even that. He said,

"I can do all things *through Christ Jesus*"

Only through a growing relationship with Christ can we overcome the different states - both high and low - that life takes us through.

So many people *start* the Christian way of life by calling on Jesus Christ for salvation, and I thank God for it. They do what Jesus Christ said in

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all [ye] that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

they come to Jesus and *rest*. They entrust their souls unto Him. But they never *pursue Christ, and a deeper*

understanding of Him. They never do the second part of what Jesus said:

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

They do not **learn of Christ**. Years ago a popular phrase was "What would Jesus do?" People learned of Christ. They **learned how to be abased, and they learned how to abound**. Look in our context:

Context Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For [it is] a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Word Study Our text says, "Do not be carried about with divers and strange doctrines". The words translated as "carried about" is the Greek PERIPHERO, which means "to be lifted up on the shoulders of so as to be carried, to be driven by, to be dragged from place to place by". What the Apostle is say is,

"Don't listen to the strange teachings of the world! Their foolish teachings *drag us here and there*, but they never let us reach God's goal for our lives".

God has a purpose for my life, and He has a purpose for your life. Listen to me now!

King David was born - not to the palace - but to the pasture. He started out as a lowly shepherd watching sheep for his father. But because he loved the Lord, and cherished Jesus Christ as his Savior, he eventually ended up in the pasture.

You will never go from the **pasture** to the **palace** until your **passion** is Christ!

We are all born with the potential of the palace. We never get there by listening to the foolish things of the world! **"Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings"**.

Illustrate Just the other day I heard that **Jesus is coming again on May 21, 2011**. When I first heard that I really got upset. You know why? I just paid my taxes! If I had known Jesus was going to come back on May 21, 2011, then I could have filed for an extension and avoided spending that money. These people *must* be true, because they have a website. Their site is wecanknow.com, they are based in Raleigh North Carolina, and they are putting up billboards everywhere that say, **"HE IS COMING AGAIN May 21, 2011"**. On the website we read:

"This web site serves as an introduction and portal to four faithful ministries which are teaching that WE CAN KNOW from the Bible alone that the date of the rapture of believers will take place on May 21, 2011 and that God will destroy this world on October 21, 2011. Please take your time and browse through the teachings of Harold Camping, President of Family

Radio."

In an television interview one of the supporters - simply identified as **"Warden"**, was quoted:

"The Bible teaches that Christ is returning on May 21 and we want to encourage people to go to Scripture and investigate for themselves. All information in the Bible points to this date. God is going to be saving people right up until the last moment."

Wow. Wish I'd have known that. Christians right now are running up big bills buying big goodies, expecting to be Raptured out of here before they have to pay the creditor. I'm sure that some will even not pay their taxes. What did Jesus say about His return?

Matthew 24:36-42 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Jesus said **"I am coming again. Keep working diligently until I come - but neither I nor you nor ANY MAN knows when that day will be"**. These people have set a date for the return of the Lord. When that day comes, and goes, and Jesus does not return, the atheist and agnostics that are FOOLS:

Psalms 14:1 .. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

will mock all Christians everywhere. Some Christians,

tender in their faith, will be shattered. Others will have to pay the piper for what a few fools have done. When this comes and goes - take heart! There's still a few who believe the **Mayan Calendar** and believe that the world is going to end in 2012.

You may chase your shadow, but you'll never catch it. Face Jesus Christ, let His light shine on YOU, and let the shadow of your past life fall behind you!

Strange teachings have led about the Christian Church so often. Cling to Jesus. Let your passion be in Jesus. Let the Grace of God fill your hearts, and **do not**

Context Hebrews 13:9 **Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For [it is] a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.**

Let your heart be on Christ! Let your contentment be on His Word in you! **Learn of Him.**

Context Hebrews 13:12 **Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**

Let your mind dwell on the sacrifice of Christ. What does it mean to you? **Jesus Christ had to step outside of His comfort zone in order to save your souls.** The world is not saved by you and I sitting and soaking and souring in this Church building. **Jesus suffered WITHOUT THE GATE.** He went outside of Heaven.

He went outside of Jerusalem. He left Nazareth.

Jesus Christ left the company of comfort so that we could be comforted. Beloved, if others are going to be comforted, we must step outside of our comfort zone, and tell them of Jesus.

Context Hebrews 13:13-14 **Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.**

Just as Jesus went "**outside the camp**" we are to go "**outside the camp**". Yes, we will be reproached. The writer of Hebrews says "**bearing His reproach**". The world doesn't like the Word of God, but it is this Word of God alone that will save them. **Do we abound?** Remember, all fame is fleeting. **Are we abased?** Remember, this world is not our home.

When Jesus Christ went to Calvary to die for our sins, His focus was not on His place of death nor even His manner of death. His focus was on "**bringing many sons unto glory**"

Hebrews 2:10-11 **In bringing many sons to glory, Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.**

Jesus Christ knew that His shed Blood would bring us into the Kingdom and Family of God. This was His

focus. Jesus was in the Brother Making Business - and we are His are to be in the Brother Making Business. As we suffer, we look toward the Promised Land - and we strive with all our hearts to take others with us.

Context Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

We, like Jesus, **do good and communicate His Gospel.** We model Christ to a lost and dying world. We learn of Him. We grow in our knowledge of Jesus, and strive to be more like Him every single day.

Context Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Jesus Christ has always been the same. If I keep learning of Him, and keep growing in how I emulate Him, then I will be stable no matter what state I find myself in. My comfort is in Jesus. My peace is in Jesus. My everything is in Jesus! I fly these twin banners before myself at all times:

I need not want nor be discontent, for **Jesus Christ is my Portion.** He has said "**I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee**".

I need not fear what man shall do unto me, for "**The Lord is my Helper**".

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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I Will Refuse To Be Enslaved By Riches

Hebrews 13:5; Mark 4:19; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:10

Word Study The word "conversation" is the Greek word TROPOS. _____

Notes _____

I Will Reject The Taskmaster Of Fear

Hebrews 13:6

Word Study The word "fear" is the Greek PHOBEO. _____

Notes _____

**Embrace The Lord As Both Your Possession
As Well As Your Protector**

Hebrews 13:5-6; Philippians 4:11-13; Matthew 11:28; Matthew 11:29; Hebrews 13:9; Matthew 24:36-42; Psalms 14:1; Hebrews 13:9; Hebrews 13:12; Hebrews 13:13-14; Hebrews 2:10-11; Hebrews 13:16

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