

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
First Quarter 2022: *In These Last Days: The Message of Hebrews*
Lesson 13 “Let Brotherly Love Continue”

Read for this week’s study

Hebrews 13; Romans 12:13; Ephesians 5:3–5; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Hebrews 2:9; Hebrews 4:16; Galatians 2:20.

Memory Text

“Let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Caring for God’s People
- III. Covetousness and Sexual Immorality
- IV. Remember Your Leaders
- V. Beware of Diverse and Strange Teachings
- VI. Go to Jesus Outside the Camp
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Daniel Duda

1. “Hebrews 13 presents the apostle’s concluding admonition: “Let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).” (Sabbath afternoon) How would you conclude a 50-minute-long sermon? Lest we get the idea that we can run the race successfully alone, the writer closes his sermon by reminding the family (in other words, Christian brothers and sisters) to continue caring for one another in practical ways.
2. What do sex, money, power, suffering, and Jesus have in common? Yet, in the closing chapter we find them all interwoven together in the first eight verses!
3. Sunday’s lesson shows that mutual affection is vital and that financial help for those in need is vital – the Greek word used in verse 1 includes both. Hospitality towards strangers and prisoners is vital too. In early Christianity there have been those who have been in prison because of their faith. How does working on behalf of persecuted Christians remain vital today?
4. Monday’s lesson addresses lust (v. 4) and covetousness (vs. 5-6). The pagan world of the first century was similarly sexually promiscuous as the Western world of the

twenty-first century. What does it mean to be deeply countercultural in this circumstance?

5. Money can easily enslave people – but poverty by itself does not bring happiness either. How does knowing that God is always with us through all the circumstances of life help us avoid the temptations of sexual immorality or the *love* of money? Why do these temptations often seem to attack those who are personally insecure?
6. Tuesday’s lesson admonishes us to remember our spiritual leaders (vs. 7-8), obey them (v. 17), pray for them (vs. 18-19) and greet them (v. 24). Why is the quality of leadership so important (both in the church and in the society)? What is it that we should imitate (v. 7)? What does this sound like to people in the Western society where all authority is suspect and all power is assumed to be corrupt?
7. Wednesday’s lesson discusses the urge to avoid ‘strange teachings’ consisting in food regulations. Why is there often a strong temptation for some people to “add” something to Christianity in the hopes that partaking in more rituals will somehow help us to obtain grace (v. 9)?
8. In Thursday’s lesson we are encouraged to not worry about bearing the reproach that comes with being a follower of Jesus. This small oblique section reveals that both the writer and the readers were aware of the increasing tensions between the followers of Jesus and their fellow Jews who saw them as traitors to the nationalist cause.
9. What does it mean for us to follow Jesus “outside the camp”? Which aspects of the life of faith in Jesus may bring “reproach” or “shame” from those around you? How do we deal with those concerns?
10. Jesus’ final steps were to carry a cross outside the gate of Jerusalem because the crucifixion, by law, had to occur outside the walls of the city, sending the message to everybody that the crucified one was rejected. Thus Jesus was dying in “exile”, yet his resurrection changed that perspective completely.
11. How can we die to our own little self-preoccupation and become a part of God’s greater, glorious plan to redeem His world? How is your life going to be different after spending 13 weeks studying this “quite brief” (v. 22) exhortation?

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Now I believe the distinctive mission of the Adventist Church is to prepare ourselves and all who are willing to listen, not just to be saved, all God’s loyal children have wanted people to be saved and have tried to help them from the very beginning. The distinctiveness of our Adventist emphasis is we are to prepare ourselves and as many who are willing to listen to survive this awful time of trouble, to hear Satan’s charges, the same old ones, but he’s sharpened them up after the years. No one will ever have heard more deceptive misrepresentation of the truth

than the last generation, but this group will survive. So, we are trying to help people grow up. Does your church program help your members become more mature, able to stand on their own feet? Do they stand on their own feet so firmly that if you should apostatize they would not? So that's a very special mission that we have and a very exciting program in the church to help our members grow up. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Understanding the Mission of the Church, #12, recorded September 1983, Camp AuSable, Michigan} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link:*
<http://pkp.cc/12MMUTMOTC>

Further Study with Ellen White

A spirit of kindness, a courteous, forbearing deportment may save the erring and hide a multitude of sins. {PP 519.5}

The deeds of kindness may have been done in secret, but the result upon the character of the doer cannot be hidden. {MB 83.1}

God's law is the law of love. He has surrounded you with beauty to teach you that you are not placed on earth merely to delve for self, to dig and build, to toil and spin, but to make life bright and joyous and beautiful with the love of Christ—like the flowers, to gladden other lives by the ministry of love. {MB 97.3}

By the grace of Christ, perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding, and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt. {SC 111.2}

When we are faithful in making God known, our impulses will be under divine supervision, and we shall make steady growth, spiritually and intellectually. {UL 81.4}

The Lord Jesus is our efficiency in all things; His Spirit is to be our inspiration; and as we place ourselves in His hands to be channels of light, our means of doing good will never be exhausted, for the resources of the power of Jesus Christ are to be at our command. We may draw upon His fullness and receive of that grace which has no limit. The Captain of our salvation at every step would teach us that almighty power is at the demand of living faith. He says, "Without me ye can do nothing;" but again declares that "greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto my Father." {HP 319.4}

Kind words are never lost. Jesus records them as if spoken to Himself. Sow the seeds of kindness, of love, and of tenderness, and they will blossom and bear fruit (MS 33, 1911). {6BC 1118.2}

God is the source of life and light and joy to the universe. Like rays of light from the sun, like the streams of water bursting from a living spring, blessings flow out from Him to all His creatures. And wherever the life of God is in the hearts of men, it will flow out to others in love and blessing. {SC 77.1}

The Bible enjoins courtesy, and it presents many illustrations of the unselfish spirit, the gentle grace, the winsome temper, that characterize true politeness. These are but reflections of the character of Christ. All the real tenderness and courtesy in the world, even among those who do not acknowledge His name, is from Him. And He desires these characteristics to be perfectly reflected in His children. It is His purpose that in us men shall behold His beauty. {Ed 241.5}

God has called human agencies to be laborers together with Him in the work of salvation. He uses men encompassed with infirmities and liable to err. Then let us not censure those who have been so unfortunate as to make mistakes. Let us rather seek to be so transformed by the grace of God as to become compassionate, touched with human woe. This will cause joy in heaven; for in loving our fallen brother as God and Christ love us, we give evidence that we are partakers of Christ's attributes. {6T 455.3}

With a sense that Jesus is by your side, you will have cheerfulness, hope, courage, and joy. . . . Never, never separate from Jesus. He never separates from us. By the cross of Calvary He has given evidence of His deep love for us. He does not leave us to fight the battle in our own finite strength. He says, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. . . . Jesus does not cast us off, even when we grieve Him; He clings to us still. {OHC 147.5}

God does not force the will or judgment of any. He takes no pleasure in a slavish obedience. He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love. He would have them obey Him because they have an intelligent appreciation of His wisdom, justice, and benevolence. And all who have a just conception of these qualities will love Him because they are drawn toward Him in admiration of His attributes. {GC 541.3}

How precious are these assurances that we shall never be left to take one step in our own finite strength, for He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. We are fighting in the presence of invisible hosts. Unseen intelligences survey the whole array of evil, and help is at hand. We shall not only be provided with that which is necessary but shall be placed upon vantage ground. . . . {OHC 311.4}

That prayer of Christ embraces all His followers to the close of time. Our Saviour foresaw the trials and dangers of His people; He is not unmindful of the dissensions and divisions that distract and weaken His church. He is looking upon us with deeper interest and more tender compassion than moves an earthly parent's heart toward a wayward, afflicted child. He bids us learn of Him. He invites our confidence. He bids us open our hearts to receive His love. He has pledged Himself to be our helper. {5T 237.2}

It is God's glory to encircle sinful, repentant human beings in the arms of His love, to bind up their wounds, to cleanse them from sin, and to clothe them with the garments of salvation. {PK 668.3}

When Christ ascended to the Father, He did not leave His followers without help. The Holy Spirit, as His representative, and the heavenly angels, as ministering spirits, are sent forth to aid those who against great odds are fighting the good fight of faith. Ever remember that Jesus is your helper. No one understands as well as He your peculiarities of character. He is watching over you, and if you are willing to be guided by Him, He will throw around you influences for good that will enable you to accomplish all His will for you. {MYP 17.1}

In the very fact that men are free moral agents, God teaches us not to be forced or compelled into any course of action, also that as responsible beings in copartnership with God we are to represent God in character. We are to have an interest in our brother, in our neighbor, in all around (Letter 65, 1895). {5BC 1098.1}

So long as he remains consecrated, the man whom God has endowed with discernment and ability will not manifest an eagerness for high position, neither will he seek to rule or control. Of necessity men must bear responsibilities; but instead of striving for the supremacy, he who is a true leader will pray for an understanding heart, to discern between good and evil. {PK 31.2}

If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy. {MH 249.1}

The study of God's word is continually expanding the mind and strengthening the intellect. There is nothing that will so refine and elevate the character, and give vigor to every faculty, as the continual exercise of the mind to grasp and comprehend weighty and important truths. {4T 545.3}

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character. Through a connection with Christ he will have clearer and broader views. His discernment will be more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. He who longs

to be of service to Christ is so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God. {DA 251.1}

He who places himself unreservedly under the guidance of the Spirit of God, will find that his mind expands and develops. He obtains an education in the service of God which is not one-sided and deficient, developing a one-sided character, but one which results in symmetry and completeness. Weaknesses that have been manifested in a vacillating will and powerless character, are overcome, for continual devotion and piety bring the man in such close relation to Christ that he has the mind of Christ. He is one with Christ, having soundness and strength of principle. His perception is clear, and he manifests that wisdom which comes from God. {1SM 338.2}

In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace—in “the beauty of the Lord our God” (Psalm 90:17). {AG 223.3}

God’s grace is ever working upon the human heart, and when it is received, the evidence of its reception will appear in the life and character of its recipient, for spiritual life will be seen developing from within. The grace of Christ in the heart will always promote spiritual life, and spiritual advancement will be made. {TMK 163.2}

The deep necessity of man for a divine teacher was known in heaven. The pity and sympathy of God were exercised in behalf of man, fallen and bound to Satan’s chariot-car; and when the fullness of time was come, He sent forth His Son. The One appointed in the counsels of heaven came to the earth as an instructor. He was no less a being than the Creator of the world, the Son of the Infinite God. The rich benevolence of God gave Him to our world; and to meet the necessities of humanity, He took on Him human nature. To the astonishment of the heavenly host, He walked this earth as the Eternal Word. Fully prepared, He left the royal courts to come to a world marred and polluted with sin. Mysteriously He allied Himself to human nature. “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” God’s excess of goodness, benevolence, and love was a surprise to the world, of grace which could be realized, but not told. {FE 399.4}

The gifts of Jesus are ever fresh and new. . . . Each new gift increases the capacity of the receiver to appreciate and enjoy the blessings of the Lord. He gives grace for grace. There can be no failure of supply. If you abide in Him, the fact that you receive a rich gift today insures the reception of a richer gift tomorrow. . . . {AG 104.2}

In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. {SC 68.1}

Every human being is the object of loving interest to Him who gave His life that He might bring men back to God. Souls guilty and helpless, liable to be destroyed by the arts and snares of Satan, are cared for as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his flock. {MH 162.1}

Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power. {MH 62.2}