

Finishing Strong

Insights from Hebrews 13:7-9
Pastor Bob Johnson, June 21st, 2020

I. Live in Light of G ... (v7)

A Positive Fatherly Legacy:

- Have **F** _____ that **L** _____
(Galatians 5:22-23)
- Have **F** _____ that **L** _____
(1 Corinthians 11:1)

II. Live in Light of G ... (v8-9)

(1 Corinthians 8:8)

Wisdom that helps prevent wandering:

- **Be C** _____ **with C** _____
(John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, 2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- **Be C** _____ **to God's Word**
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, Acts 17:11)
- **Avoid being too C** _____
(Mark 10:15, Mark 12:30-31)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our tenth week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be next week.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

This pandemic season we are in continues to stretch us and cause us to be flexible and patient. In these trying times, we all have good days and not so good days.

Let's all share something positive that we have done in the past week that showed some flexibility, or patience, or some other positive quality that is evidence that God is at work in our lives.

It is true that God is at work in our lives, but it is also true that He isn't finished yet :). That means, there are times we are humbly reminded that we have a long way to go.

So we can remind each other that we are not alone in this journey to maturity, let's share a moment where we were reminded that we still need God to continue to develop our character to look more and more like the character of Jesus.

The old statement is true ... Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven. Let's be thankful for what God has begun in our lives and as Philippians 1:6 reminds us, let's be hopeful that He will finish what He started.

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 13:7-9

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

1. This weekend, we were cautioned to look out for 'spiritual counterfeits'. Several times in the New Testament, Jesus cautioned people in a similar way by encouraging his followers to avoid darkness and walk in the light.

How do the following verses describe the difference between light and darkness?

John 3:19-21
John 8:12
John 12:35-36
1 John 1:5-9

Can you think of any times when walking in the light felt frustrating, but turned out to be for your benefit?

2. Bob mentioned that counterfeits to God's truths have been around a long time. The first example of deception in the Bible was back in the garden with Adam and Eve.

In Genesis 3, Satan deceived Eve, not by using huge lies but by using half-truths and questioning God's character.

Read Genesis 3:1-7. What insights do you see related to the first sin. Can you think of any areas where you have been deceived, tempted or fallen into half-truths similar to Adam and Eve?

3. In Hebrews 13:7, we read the importance of living in light of Godly example. We are also encouraged to choose spiritual leaders wisely. Spiritual leaders can be mentors, pastors, friends, etc.

Proverbs has much to say about who we pick to surround ourselves with and how that impacts us.

What truths are seen in the following verses that could be applied to picking the right spiritual leaders?

Proverbs 27:5-6
Proverbs 13:20
Proverbs 14:7-9
Proverbs 22:24-25

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?