

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

The righteous are merciful & full of compassion. (v4)

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-17, 20-21

Luke 14:1, 7-14

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you resist those who are proud & give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-17, 20-21

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, & let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators & adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, & be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, & imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday & today & forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good & to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ¹⁷Obey your leaders & submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls & will give an account. Let them do this with joy & not with sighing — for that would be harmful to you. ²⁰Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever & ever. Amen.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Though written anonymously, *Hebrews* is certainly familiar with the Apostles' teachings. What connections do you find with the following? See *John 1:1, 10:18; Romans 8:11, 12:10, 13; 1 Corinthians 4:16, 6:9, 11:1; Ephesians 5:5, 20; Philippians 2:13, 4:18; 1 Timothy 3:3, 6:7; 1 Peter 4:9; remember to check surrounding verses for additional context.*
2. Review the **Formula of Concord Epitome**: IV Good Works. How do good works (vv15-16, 21) fit into our lives? Which comes first "getting saved" or doing good works? See *Luke 10:25-37; Small Catechism: 2nd Commandment; FC, SC, & LC (below) available bookofconcord.org*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. V3 speaks of persecuted & martyred Christians, not merely ones who are disrespected or marginalized. It's been said that if a Christian isn't suffering, they may not be doing it right. How have the last 2-3 years opened your eyes to others' suffering for the Gospel? How can you support them? See *Matthew 10:16-25, 24:9-14; John 15:18; Acts 7:51-60, 12:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33;*
4. How is v17 (& v7) a biblical teaching? What about it makes you uncomfortable? How is this a "heart" problem for you? See *Large Catechism: 4th Commandment 158-176; SC: Table of Duties; John 13:11-17, 20; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-22 ; 1 Peter 5:1-15; James 3:1*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Vv20-21 are commonly used as the benediction (final blessing) at funerals. What makes them fitting for a mixed crowd of the fully-, partially-, & un-faithful? See *Matthew 5:43-48, 28:16-20; Mark 6:17-27; Luke 7:36-50, 13:1-5, 16:19-31, 18:9-14; Romans 13:8-10*
6. Our preaching series "Cloudy Skies" is about finding encouragement for the struggles of everyday life. What is encouraging to you in this passage about "faith active in love"? Who needs to hear this encouragement from you? Name at least 10 things & 5 people.

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12th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Cloudy Skies

08.28.22

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Get Action

Get out of your mind & into your body.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [Now may the God of peace] make you complete
in everything good so that you may do his will (*v21a*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me;
for I am gentle & humble in heart. (*Matthew 11:29*)

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