

## Where is God?

The book of Hebrews is a wonderful reflection of the old verses the new, death verses life and law verses grace.

Chapter 13 sums up the whole book of Hebrews, and we can easily answer the following question based on some of the text in that chapter.

### Where is God?

God is in the camp and He is outside the camp

God is in the Old Testament and He is in the New Testament

God is in the law and He is in grace

God is in the city made with hands and He is in the city made without hands

One place **demand**s a sacrifice that leads to death

One place **enables** a sacrifice that leads to life

And The Lord says

“The place where you serve Me, that is how you relate to Me determines the nature of your sacrifice”

Let's look at this truth confirmed in Hebrews 13: 8-16

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

13 So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Outside and only outside the gates are we able to participate in profitable God-pleasing Sacrifices. This sacrifice leads to life, it is through Jesus. The sacrifices made through the law within the gates will only lead to death. If there had been a law that would bring forth live then there would have been no need for the sacrifice of Christ!

For this reason we are being encouraged to be outside the camp where the person of grace has His work, enabling a sacrifice leading to life because the sacrifice is from God, it's through God and then back to God. How do we come to be in this place outside the camp? Through a place of faithful rest which is the result of right teaching and preaching. It is our place of contentment and peace, and from this place, outside the camp, our activity is always pleasing and acceptable to God and it is a benefit to us, it's profitable. It is not like the sacrifice from inside the camp (works, law, fleshly sacrifices) which brings death and is unprofitable. So our focus is not on the old way (in the camp) but on the new “good” news outside the camp, that's Jesus. He and he alone will bring forth the right life that is acceptable to God. If you focus on the law you will bring forth death, for no man can keep it, or do you think oh man that you are superhuman? This activity is definitely not profitable but with our focus on Christ His work is always profitable. For it is God at work in you oh

man to work and to will for His good pleasure. That's the operation of GRACE!! So the nature of our sacrifice depends wholly on how we relate to God! One way brings forth death the other way life.

Choose this day LIFE (Christ). Amen

At this point if you have not read my discourse on **Jesus declares His fulfillment of the law!** from Matthew 5:17 , it would be good to, these truths build on each other as does all the revelations in the New Covenant.

In ending let's look at Verse 10 which makes a very powerful point substantiating the inability of the sacrifice of Jesus mixing with lawful sacrifices, it tells us that there is no place for the 2 very different sacrifices to have fellowship! No co-habitation here! I tend to call the attempt to mix the two spiritual adultery. Give that some serious thought. Death and life, non-profit and profit don't mix, in fact they tend to cancel each other out. This is a very powerful and important point to grasp hold of and except. It's so easy to rest and be with Jesus, His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He provides us everything in that rest outside the camp. Thank you Lord!

A wonderful story from the Gospel of John that strengthens what Hebrews 13 is saying is John chapter 9 a very foretelling story of a man who was in the camp and got kicked out where he was then found by the Son of God. It's a brilliant story of grace and love versus works and hatred, being blind and then able to see.

Robert