

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 13:5-8**.
- B. Life is filled with problems to be worked out, crisis times to be solved, and struggles to work through.
- C. When life seems despairing one might ask, "What *more* can man do to me?"
- D. The question in our text, is given three answers by the Hebrews writer of great encouragement.

I. ANSWER NUMBER ONE: **GOD NEVER FORSAKES US.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 13:5.
Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"
- B. Man will put his trust in many things, all of which (if not God) will let him down.
- C. The verse speaks of the love of money which is present in those who are never content with the things they have and with those who put no reliance on God.
- D. Some trust in their own wisdom, talent, stature or friends. Yet all of those are lacking in protection against the pitfalls of life (Lk. 12:15; 1Cor. 12:20,26-29).
*(Lk 12:15) And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."
(1Cor 12:20) But now there are many members, but one body.
(1Cor 12:26-29) And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?*
- E. Hebrews, chapter 11, gives many examples of men, who succeeded despite great adversity. They learned very well, that God will not forsake them. Think of:
 - 1. Noah (Heb. 11:7).
By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
 - 2. Abraham (Heb. 11:8).
By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.
 - 3. Sarah (Heb. 11:11).
By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised;
 - 4. Moses (Heb. 11:24-25).
By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;

II. ANSWER NUMBER TWO: **THE LORD IS MY HELPER.**

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 13:6.
so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?"
- B. I want to make the application here of the Lord being JC.
- C. Jesus has promised us the best life, and eternal life after physical death (Jn. 10:10).
- D. The abundant life in X is found by virtue of Him being the way, the truth, and the life:
 - 1. The Way--the past forgotten, the present understood, the future secure.
 - 2. The Truth--knowing what to do with people, places, things, and sin.
 - 3. The Life--happiness, peace, joy, etc., are in X.
- E. Jesus taught much in the Sermon on the Mount about not having worries (Mt. 6:25-34).

III. ANSWER NUMBER THREE: REMEMBER THOSE WHO LED YOU.

- A. Scripture text: Hebrews 13:7.
Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.
- B. This probably refers to the apostles (now dead) and other martyrs of X who had a great impact in the church. Some scholars think that Hebrews was written just before the destruction of Jerusalem (or the late 60's). This means that some of the apostles have already been killed because of the Way.
- C. In looking at these men (neither dead or alive) we see great hope and courage in meeting the problems of life. Consider:
1. Stephen The first Xian to die as a martyr.
 2. James The half brother of Jesus, who wrote a book of the NT.
 3. Peter Either at the end of his life or already dead.
 4. Antipas Known in the book of Revelation as the faithful witness.
 5. John the Baptist Beheaded for preaching the truth about X and the kingdom.
- D. Why remember mere men? Because of three important godly attributes:
1. They spoke the word of God.
 2. Their conduct resulted in spiritual good.
 3. Their faith was (is) to be imitated.
- E. All of these great men received their eternal reward making the struggles, problems, and persecution worth it. They are great examples to us.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. "What shall man do to me?" is asked. Based on the evidence of:
1. God, who will never forsake us.
 2. Jesus Christ who is our helper.
 3. The faithful brethren who have gone on before--
the answer is NOTHING!
- B. Man can do nothing to ultimately harm the Xian if he/she will look for strength and guidance in God, in X, and mature brethren who live faithfully.
- C. We can then agree with Paul who said whether we live or whether we die we are the Lord's (Rom. 14:7).
For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself;
- D. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His blood still forgives sins. He still mediates between His Father and man. He is still the author and finisher of faith. Based on all of this, what can man do to me?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.