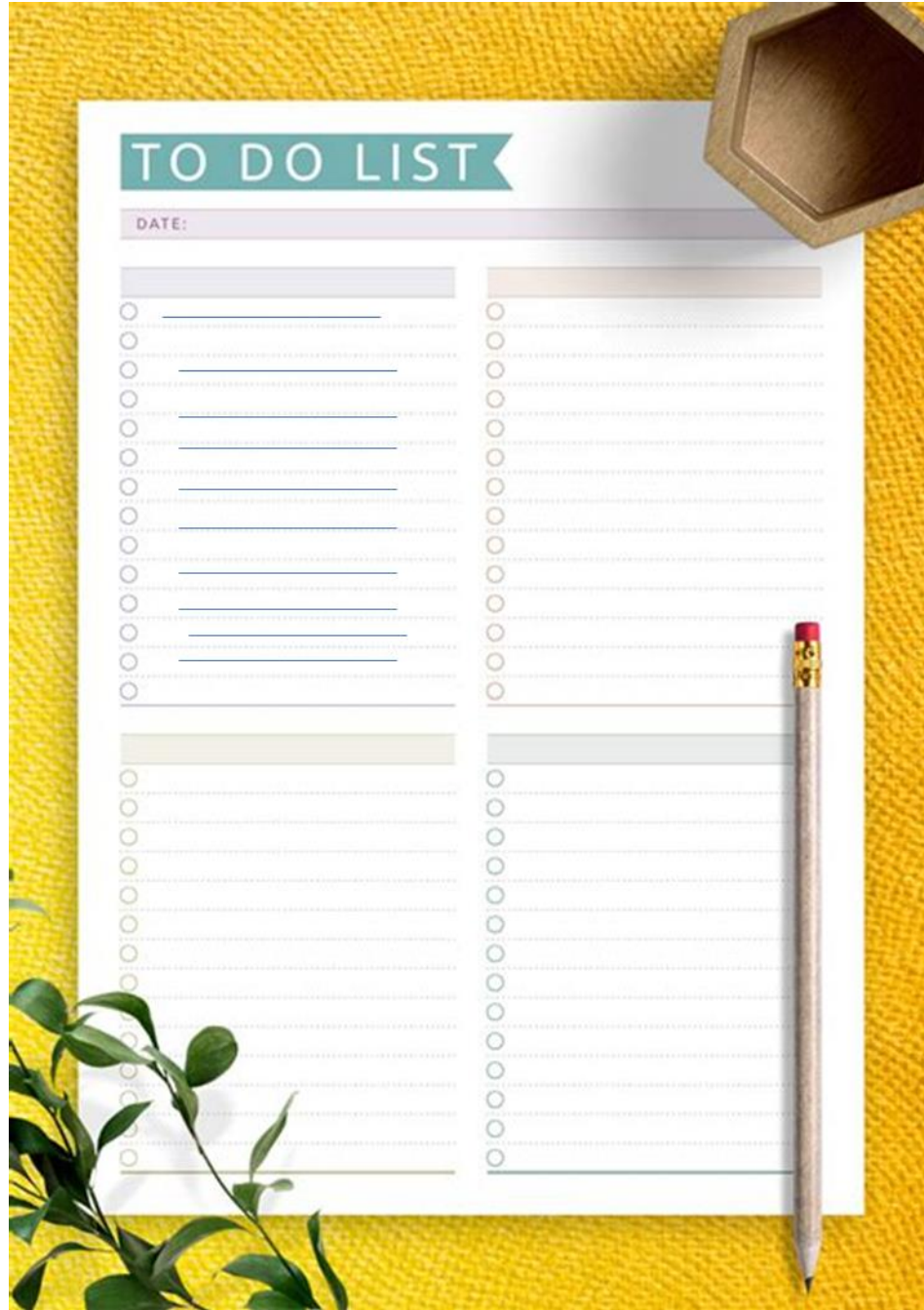


Hebrews 13
concludes the
letter with a
practical
to – do list



Keep on loving each other as brothers. v1

Philadelphia is the word. We are FAMILY!

- *Value
- *Appreciate
- *Honour
- *Help
- *Pray

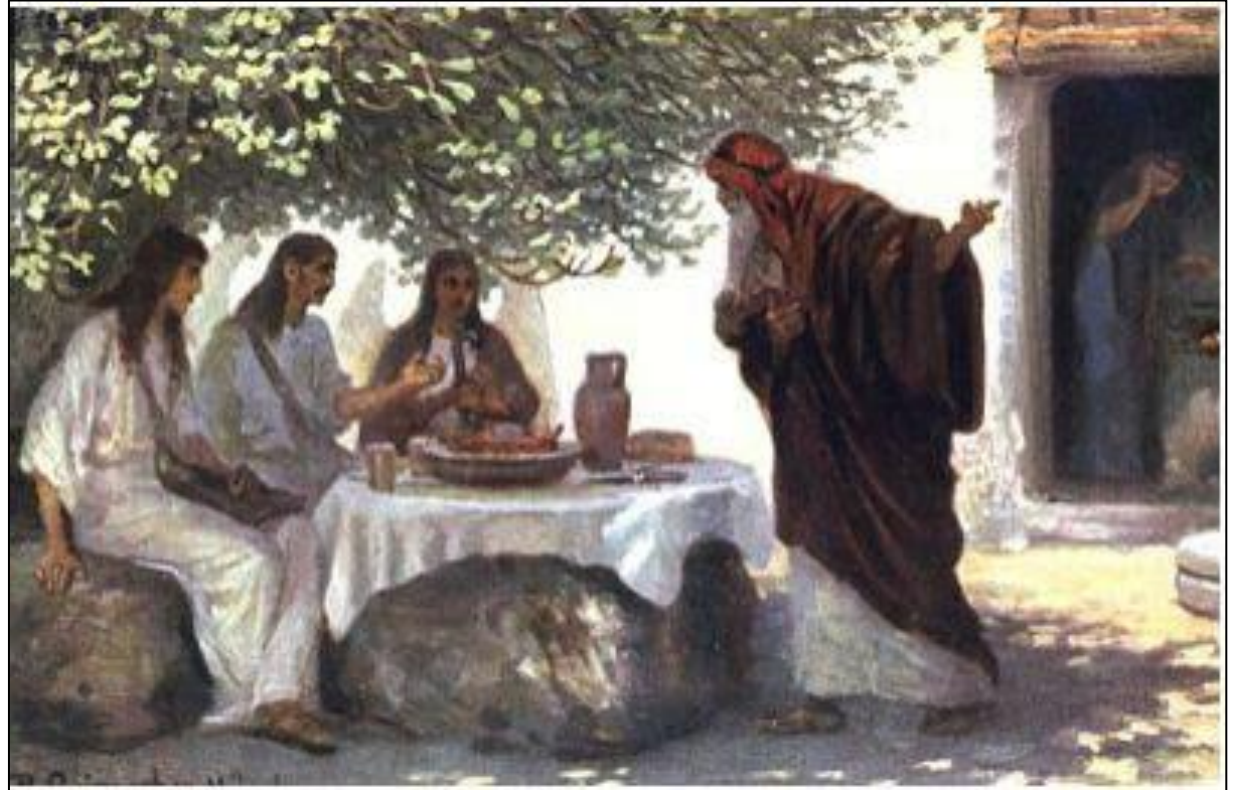


Let it remain = keep it up!

v2 Do not forget to entertain strangers,
for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

There were mobile believers
– evangelists - preachers
The bad reputation of inns
meant hospitality was
essential.

You will be blessed
Cf. Abraham etc.









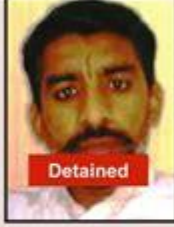





Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. v3

Suffering saints ... Help them by prayer and action

Sympathy leads to the appropriate response

PRISONER PROFILE

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  Detained |  Detained |  Released |  Detained |
| Zhang Shaojie CHINA | Twen ERITREA | Maryam Zargarani IRAN | Ebrahim Firouzi IRAN |
|  Released |  Released |  Released |  Detained |
| Amin Afshar Naderi IRAN | Yuri Pak KAZAKHSTAN | Hyeon Soo Lim NORTH KOREA | Kim Kuk-gi NORTH KOREA |
|  Detained |  Released |  Released |  Detained |
| Zafar Bhatti PAKISTAN | Petr Jasek SUDAN | Hassan Abduraheem SUDAN | Bakhrom Kholmatov TAJIKISTAN |

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice 50 YEARS
of Persecuted Christians 1968-2018

Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. v4

It's a sinful world.

God's gift of marriage and sex within marriage can be perverted by sin.

Don't commit sexual sins.

2 reasons:

God's way brings God's blessing.

Judgement will come on such sin.



Keep your lives free from the love of money
and be content with what you have, because God has said,
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." v5

A perpetual problem and a form of idolatry
Colossians 3:5 greed, which is idolatry.

What is your trust in?

Am I content?

God's promise of his presence is the
assurance of his continual help.

'Never' in Greek is 'no not no way'



So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?" v6

Confident?

There is a logical, glad connection to the previous statement.

There are limits to what humans can do
– eternal things are in his hands



Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. v7

The Leadership is to give an example.
How do we remember them?
Follow their example of faithful living.

1 Peter 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. v8

The supreme example to be followed.

Constant help and blessing

The Past is gone –
The future is not yet
but NOW he is with us

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. v9



Early church heresies have been repeated again and again.
The scriptures have been given to combat them.

v9 It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace,
not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

Is this addressed to the Jewish believers?

Cf. Paul's reasoning in Romans 14

We are not saved by ritual or food

Food for the body

but grace is needed for living



Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating
and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

v10 We have an altar
from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.



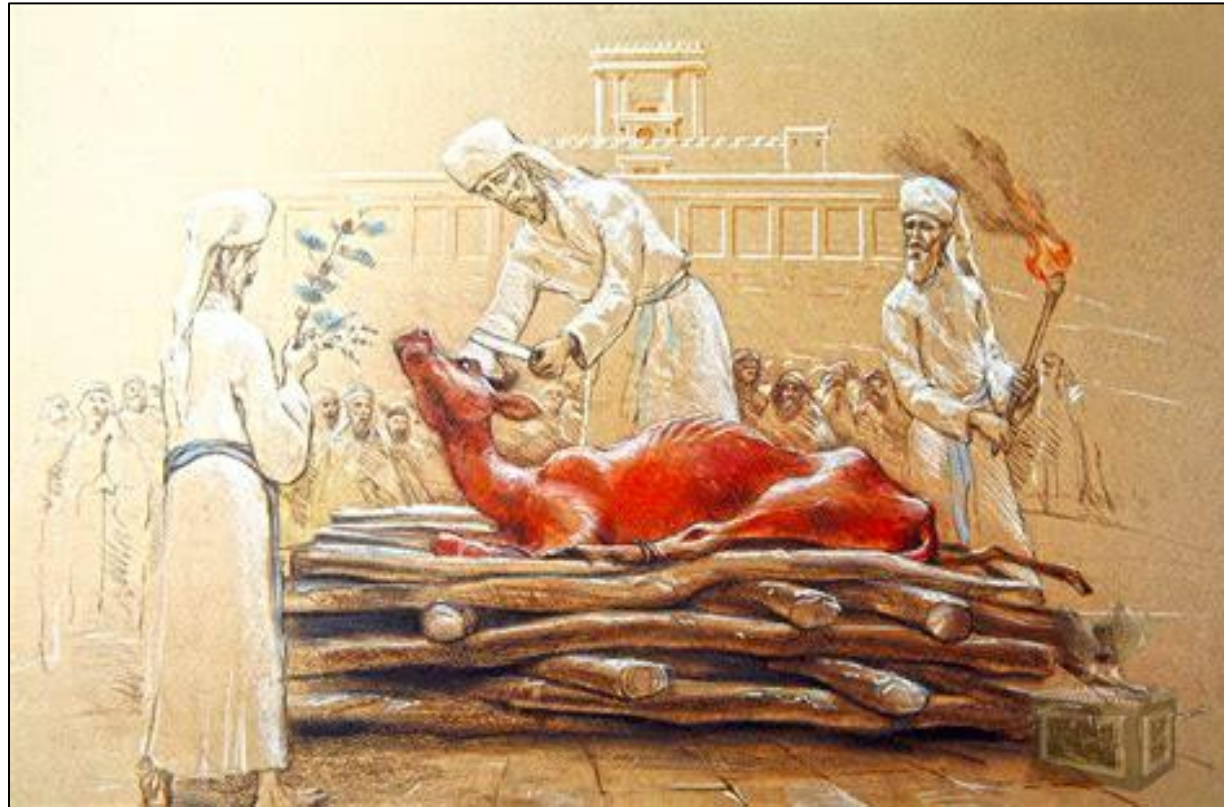
Something new has come through the Messiah

It's a different – approachable altar

This spiritual sustenance is for believers only

The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. v11

This is a reminder of the OT sacrificial system for atonement



And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate
to make the people holy through his own blood. v12

Jesus literally fulfilled this prophetic type
when he was crucified outside the city.
He provides atonement for believers
through his own blood (not animals)



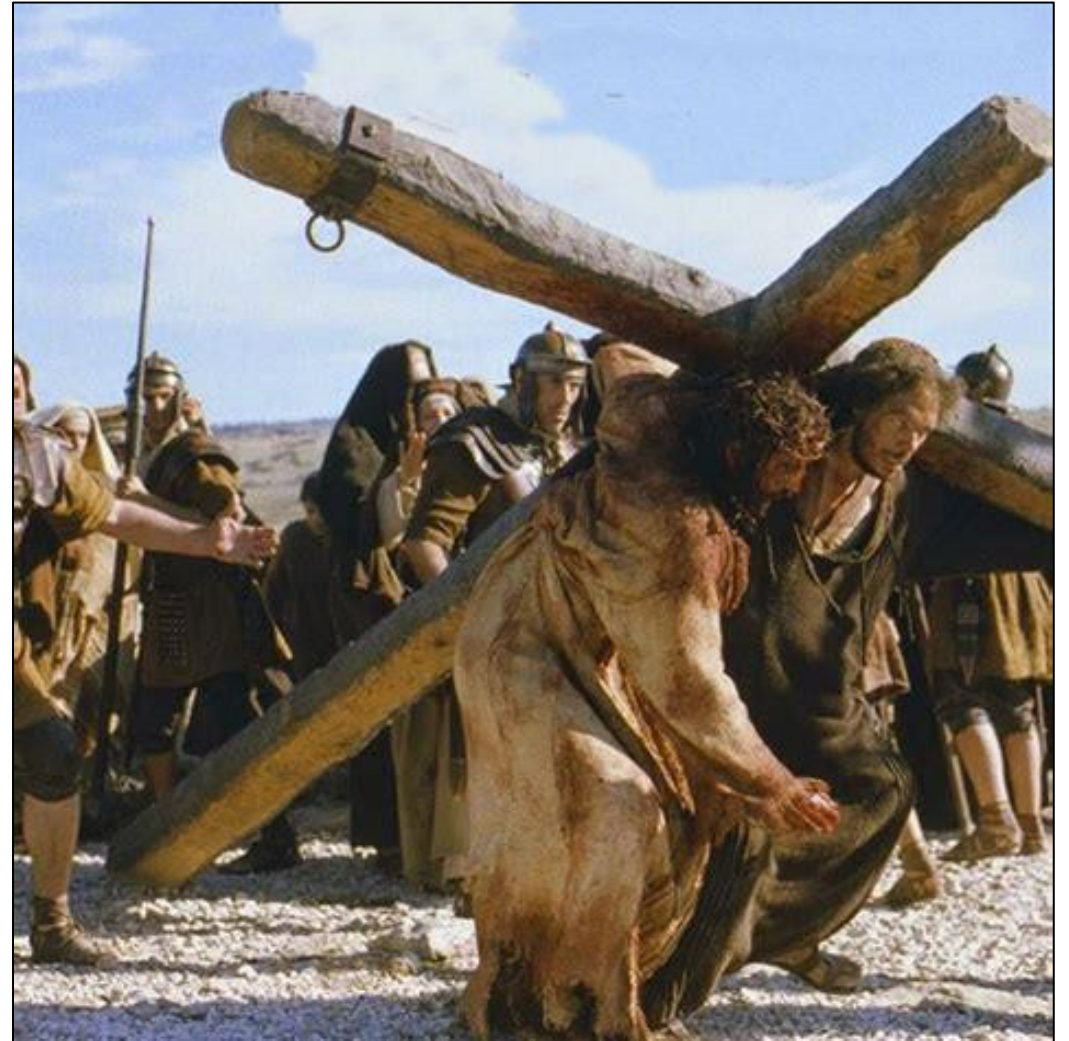
Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. v13

Who is willing to follow ?

There is the cost of the world's shame to following him (discipleship)

What can make us slow to respond?

Fear of danger,
the desire to be accepted, popular
etc.



For (*because*) here we do not have an enduring city,
but we are looking for the city that is to come. v14

The world ultimately has nothing to offer us. It is temporary and passing away.

We are looking forward to a permanent home.



Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name. v15

So be thankful and praise the Lord

Note: Jesus is the only mediator.

A Fruit offering – acknowledging Jesus

When can praise be a sacrifice?



And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. v16

Actively thinking about other people
and sharing ...
are considered as sacrifices.

We can please God!



Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. v17

Leadership is necessary
'followship' is also necessary

This is not dictatorship but
spiritual guidance



They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.
Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden,
for that would be of no advantage to you. v17

Leaders are accountable to God.
Make it easier for them!
If not, you suffer too.



Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience
and desire to live honourably in every way. v18
I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon. v19

Apostolic leaders were an example to
local leaders

We all need the prayers of others.

The writer knows these people but is
detained for some reason.



May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen v20-21

A wonderful prayer for them – and us
God's peace
The New Covenant is an eternal one
The Shepherd
Enabling us to do God's good purposes
bringing glory to Jesus the Messiah
Amen

P. S.

Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation,
for I have written you only a short letter. v22

I've tried to encourage you.

Short 13 chapters !



I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released.
If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you. v23

Timothy had been imprisoned.
They are coming together if possible.

Greet all your leaders and all God`s people.
Those from Italy send you their greetings. Grace be with you all. v24

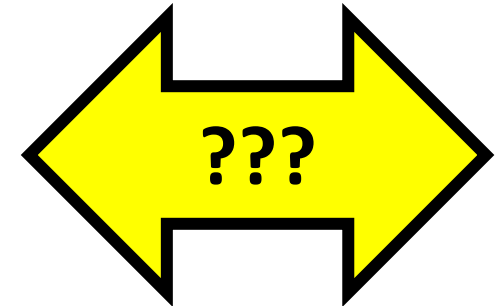
Greetings to all

An ambiguous address for us

– is it written from Rome or to Rome?

Some assume it was a letter to Italy

(ie. those with the writer send greetings back home)



Grace is what matters.

TO DO LIST

DATE:

Hebrews 13

_____ Church family

_____ Hospitality

_____ Support

_____ Marriage

_____ Money

_____ Leadership

_____ Food

_____ Perseverance

_____ Prayer