<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
Bear Reproach, Give Praise, And Do Good
Hebrews 13:13-16

<u>Introduction</u>

We all have people whom we've never told about Jesus. One of the biggest reasons is because we are afraid of their disfavor or reproach.

In today's passage God tells us how we can be free from fear of reproach —

<u>Why, if we go to Jesus, will we bear the reproach he endured</u>? (v.13)

It's because he's "outside the camp," which means he suffered outside of Jerusalem at a place of shame and reproach where almost everyone mocked him.

We can either live inside the camp, inside the city, seeking what the city of this world honors. Or we can go to Jesus.

If we go to Jesus, he will strengthen our hearts so much that we love him, worship him, and obey him when he calls us to tell others about him. And some of them will mock us, scoff at us, and reproach us.

<u>How can we overcome our fear of reproach</u>? (v.14)

The city of this world is not lasting, which means none of its praise, glory, and honor will last, and none of its mockery, scoffing, or reproach will last.

But there is another city — the city that is to come. We seek that city by (figuratively) leaving the city of this world, going to Jesus, and bearing his reproach.

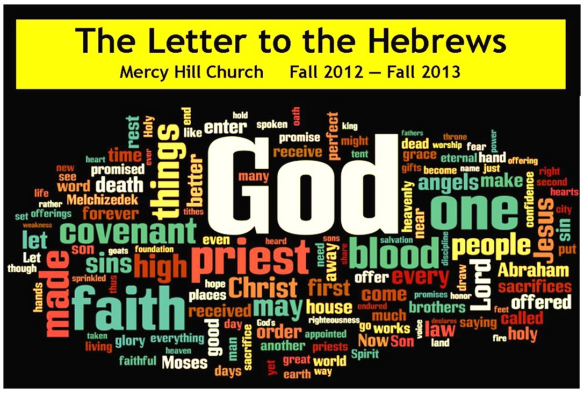
If we are doing this, then when we die we will enter the city that is to come. And God will love you for bearing the reproach of his Son. And his love, favor, and delight will last forever — and vastly make up for all the reproach we've suffered.

<u>How should we respond to all of this</u>? (vv.15-16)

Continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to god (v.15)

Offer a sacrifice of doing good and sharing what you have (v.16).

And the way we bear Jesus' reproach, continually praise, and do good and share is by constantly bringing our weak hearts to God's grace in Christ.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Do you agree that the main reason we bear Jesus' reproach is because we share the Gospel with others? Why or why not?

Do you agree that Jesus calls all of us to tell others about Jesus? Why or why not?

Whom do you know that you have not yet told about Jesus? How much of this is because you fear reproach?

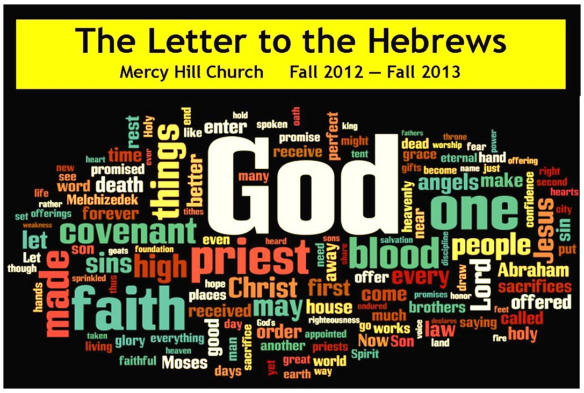
What would happen if you took time to pray over v.14 until the Holy Spirit helped you feel the certainty of the city that is to come where the Father will love you for bearing his Son's reproach?

Do you agree that praise flows when we bring our weak hearts to God's grace in Christ — and that when there's no praise, it's usually because we are taking our hearts elsewhere? Why or why not?

What is some sacrifice of good or sharing that God is stirring your heart to take? When will you take it? How does it help to understand that you are headed for the city that is to come?

What is your biggest take-away from this passage?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.


The Letter to the Hebrews
Mercy Hill Church Fall 2012 – Fall 2013
God
faith
priest
covenant
blood
one
people
things
angels
Christ
Jesus
Lord
Abraham
sacrifices
offered
Called
holy
law
high
sins
made
let
time
death
word
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Melchizedek
forever
better
enter
rest
perfect
receive
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first
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offer
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Spirit
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Son
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