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THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 141
HEBREWS 13:13

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Let us get a corrected translation of verses 10-12.

Verse 10

"We, the Royal Priesthood, have an altar, from which we who served the tabernacle have not authorization to eat."

Verse 11

"For with reference to those animals whose blood is carried into the holy of holies, on behalf of sin, by the high priest, and whose carcasses are burned outside the camp."

Verse 12

"Because of this also Jesus suffered outside the gate in order that he might sanctify his people through his own blood."

HEBREWS 13:13 "Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." We have a present, middle, subjunctive of exzerchomai and it means "to go outside," to go outside the gate, the camp. So it says literally, "Let us be going outside the gate." We are expected to build an altar and to keep it. Build an altar of doctrine. We are to attend this altar every single day. This is an altar of words, of thoughts, of concepts. The only way we can become stabilized and consistent Christians is to attend this altar of doctrine every day. Go outside to the altar and learn. This is what we call a permissive middle and it means the one doing the learning is doing it of his own volition. The subjunctive mood is hortatory and means that this is a special kind of a command. The one writing this epistle has already gone to this altar himself and he is inviting the reader to a course of action like his own. This verse begins with the words toi nun and we will translate them "Hence let us be going outside." Then we have the words pros autos and it means "to him." This intensive pronoun emphasizes the importance of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Summary

1. This summary takes into consideration everything we have had from verses 10 to 13. The altar of the Royal Priest, which is Bible Doctrine resident in the soul, is always constructed outside the camp, outside the gate, outside the stuffy religion of Jerusalem, outside the camp of legalism and formal religion.
2. The first function of a believer after salvation is to construct this altar in his soul. This is the only road to maturity. Here we get our game plan and a signal for every play of life.
3. This phrase describes the first sacrifice the Christian is to offer on this altar. "Hence let us be going outside the camp. We are to do it every day. We are to follow the colors. This

is the only way to maintain the high ground and you must have this altar erected in your soul. This is your dictator. It is doing what the commanding officer tells you to do, and the commanding officer is God the Father.

Next we have the word exzo plus parembole and it means "without the camp." This means that doctrine brings to you a separation.

THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION

1. DEFINITION

- a. Separation is a decision or an altar which stems from control central in your soul. It comes from whatever doctrine is in your soul. It is a decision or an action which stems from maximum doctrine in the soul. No altar, no decisions. No altar, no separation.
- b. The separation is a part of the fact that now the newborn person has the Holy Spirit within controlling the life. This is the mark of your life. This is your coat of arms. Does the Holy Spirit control your soul? You have options. You can quench the Holy Spirit with acts of human good, you can grieve the Holy Spirit with acts of sin, and you can be filled with the Holy Spirit and produce divine good. When you are minus doctrine, you are always off balance. But the Holy Spirit is helpless unless you feed doctrine into the soul. But the Holy Spirit can take doctrine and use it as the raw material for building character and stability. We call this balance of residence in the soul.
- c. Separation is produced by an active altar in the soul. And every day we are to put on a sacrifice of the Word of God and this altar will become more and more important in our lives.
- d. Separation must be related to the construction of this altar, based on doctrine. Be sure that the separation is a result of doctrine and not something else.

2. THE FIRST PLACE FOR YOUR SEPARATION IS FROM OTHER BELIEVERS.

You are to love all believers but separate from most of them. In other words, doctrine is your norm and not other believers.

- a. There are certain carnal believers from whom you must be separated. If you do not separate from them you will become involved in their carnality. (1 Cor. 5:10-11)
- b. You must separate yourself from reversionistic believers. (1 Sam. 22:1, 2 Thess. 3:6 and 14 and 15) If you don't separate from them, you will go with them. If someone goes sour, get away from them. (One rotten apple in the barrel can spoil the entire barrel.) Someone has said, "If you go with a guy who tars roofs, eventually you will have tar on you."
- c. Separate from religion, emotion, and legalism. (Testimony of man in Veteran's Hospital who became convinced my interpretation concerning tongues is correct.)

3. SEPARATION MUST BE RELATED TO SOCIAL LIFE.

It is so easy to be pulled away from doctrine and the church and even the Lord by running with the wrong crowd. (Proverbs 1:10-19, Jeremiah 15:17, 1 Peter 4:4)

4. SEPARATION FROM THE UNBELIEVER.

The believer is in the world but not of the world. We have to live among unbelievers and can't separate from them entirely. You should have friends among unbelievers. Never separate from an unbeliever unless staying friends with him compromises doctrine. NO BELIEVER SHOULD EVER MARRY AN UNBELIEVER. Doctrine settles this point. (2 Cor. 6:14, Hebrews 13:13) (No believer can join the Communist party without violating doctrine.)

5. SEPARATION FROM WORLDLINESS.

We must understand what worldliness is. It is not going to a night club or drinking or dancing or living it up. It is not worldly to have a good time. Worldliness is lack of Bible Doctrine in the soul that produces human viewpoint. WORLDLINESS IS SOMETHING YOU THINK, NOT SOMETHING YOU DO. Romans 12:1-2 says we rebound by the renewing of the mind. Worldliness is a mental attitude viewpoint. Get true doctrine and it will set you free from worldliness every time. It is what you are thinking not where you are that determines worldliness.

6. SEPARATION FROM RELIGION AND APOSTASY.

(2 Cor. 6:17, 2 Tim. 3:5, Heb. 13:13)

This doctrine demands that you separate from any group that separates you from your right church and your right pastor-teacher. A state of compromise can only be corrected by separation.

7. SEPARATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN FAMILY.

This does not justify divorce just because you do not get along with your partner. Separation from family as taught in this passage we will study in Matthew 10 does not include divorce. (Matthew 10:34-39)

Doctrine resident in the soul is more important than family relationship. God has provided doctrine that will hold families together.

MATTHEW 10:34 "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword."

These words "think not" should read, "Do not presume." This is the aorist, active, subjunctive of nomizo and it is always used for arrogant and liberal people. These people are always sure they have the answers to all the world's problems. This is a verb of presumption. This is an ingressive aorist and it means these people were just beginning to do this. The subjunctive is a subjunctive of prohibition. Then we have the

the word hote which always comes after verbs of presumption. "I have come" is the aorist, active, infinitive of erchomai and this refers to the first advent of Christ, with emphasis on his public ministry. Next we have the words "to send" and this is the aorist, active, infinitive of ballo and it means to throw, to thrust, to hurl. "Peace on the earth" means the lack of any warfare. This verb "to hurl" has the strong negative ouk with it. Then we next have the word alla to give the contrast.

Get some points on "hurl a sword."

1. The Angelic Conflict will be intensified by Christ's coming. Christ will win the strategic victory when he sits down at God's right hand.
2. Christ said there will be wars and rumors of wars until he returns. (Matthew 24:6 and Mark 13:7)
A strong military is a nation's only protection in the Devil's world. Also a maximum number of believers in a nation.
3. This means there will be wars until the second advent.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is a divider of people.

So this verse says, "Do not presume (arrogance in thinking) that I have come to hurl peace on the earth, I have not come to hurl peace on the earth, but to hurl a sword."

The cross and doctrine will always divide people. There will be all kinds of division and he used the human family as an illustration.

MATTHEW 10:35 "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Now we get the explanatory "for" from gar. "I have come" from the aorist, active, indicative of erchomai. "To set" is the aorist, active, infinitive of dichazo. This is a very rare verb. It means to cause a man to turn against another man. Christ is the one who is said to have done this separating. Next we have kata pater and it means "against his father." In other words, the impact of the first advent of Christ is that it would very often divide families.

The Importance Of Doctrine

In his dying words Jesus emphasized the importance of doctrine.

PSALM 31:5 "Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth." But let us remember this; divine viewpoint always disturbs human viewpoint. If each member of the family has his own altar, then there is a basis for family unity and happiness.

MATTHEW 10:36 "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

Here in this verse he quotes Micah 7:6. "A man's enemies are the members of his own household." Sometimes some of the members of your own family are your worst enemies. One grows in doctrine while the other goes farther and farther from it and the void grows deeper and deeper.

MATTHEW 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Jesus Christ demands our affection, our first allegiance. The words "is not worthy" refer to reversionism. It is nobility versus reversionism. Which is more important to you, Bible Doctrine or family ties? So, quite often it is details of life versus doctrine.

MATTHEW 10:38 "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me is not worthy of me." Taketh not his cross is the present, active, indicative of lambano plus the negative ouk. The cross is used here to refer to not taking in doctrine. The brass altar was a picture of the cross. We can't pick up Christ's cross. He carried that himself and died there a perfect atoning death. So, picking up our cross refers to picking up Bible Doctrine. It has nothing to do with our giving up something. This is exactly the same thing Paul talks about in Ephesians 6 when he says we are to put on the whole armour of God. This is what carrying the cross means. "Followeth after me" is the present, active, indicative of akoloutheo. This means we are to daily take in doctrine.

MATTHEW 10:39 "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." He that findeth his life is talking about the person who has made the intellectual discovery of his soul. It is the perfect, active participle of heurisko. "Shall lose it" is the future, active indicative apollumi and it means you destroy what you were, it voids your old scale of values. The new categories and new norms and standards destroy the old ones.

There is one more phrase we must study before we close Hebrews 13:13 We have "bearing his reproach." The word for "bearing" is the present, active, participle of phero. The word for reproach is oneidismo and it refers to antagonism of the whole world to Jesus Christ. So this verse says, "Hence, let us be going outside to him bearing his reproach."

Concepts

1. Here in the context of Hebrews 13 we see that religion and legalism had greatly confused the city of Jerusalem of 67 A.D. Jerusalem was the city where the church began but Jerusalem had capitulated to religion and legalism.
2. Therefore, the headquarters of the church on earth is just anywhere there are those who have separated from religion and legalism.
3. Therefore, bearing his cross and bearing his reproach means that the super grace believer has separated himself from religion and legalism.
4. Such separation as this causes great satanic opposition.
5. Every grace believer in the world finds himself thrust outside the camp of religion and legalism.

Next time we will study "The Tale of Two Cities."