

## FOLLOW YOUR LEADERS

*Hebrews 13:17-19*

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has written of the importance of praising God and thanking Him.
- 1) "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise" vs 15
  - 2) "giving thanks to his name"
- B. He also adds a practical exhortation vs 16
- 1) They are to do good
  - 2) They are to practice sharing
- C. Paul now encourages them to follow their leaders, their teachers. vs 17
- 1) This will be a part of their acceptable service to God
  - 2) This was their primary source of instruction since the New Testament letters had not all been written.
- I. "Obey them..." vs 17
- A. "Obey them that have the rule over you..." vs 17
- 1) "obey" = πειθω = "to suffer one's self to be persuaded or convinced", "yield assent to"
  - 2) "rule" = ηγεσθαι = "to lead the way", "go first", "be leader or chief"
  - 3) "Be open to the teaching of those who persuade you and follow them as leaders"
- B. "...and submit yourselves..."
- 1) "submit" = υπεικω = "to cease fighting", "yield to"
  - 2) "And be willing to do what they say" TAY
- C. "...for they watch for your souls..."
- 1) "watch" = αγρυπνεω = "to be sleepless", "lie awake (through care or anxiety)", "to be watchful of every event", "to be very intent upon a thing"



- 2) "souls" = ψυχη = "the manifestation of", "the sign of life"
- 3) "They are like men standing guard over your spiritual good" PHI

D. "...as they must give an account..."

- 1) "account" = λογος = "the word", "to give an answer"
- 2) "They will have to answer to God for how well they do this (and how well you responded)"

E. "...that they may do it with you, and not with grief..."

- 1) "joy" = χαρα = "delight", "gladness"
- 2) "grief" = στεναζω = "to groan", "to sigh"
- 3) "Try to make their work a pleasure and not a burden" PHI
- 4) "Give them a reason to report joyfully about you to the Lord and not with sorrow" TAY

F. "...for that is unprofitable to you."

- 1) "unprofitable" = αλυσιτελης = "yielding no gain", "not paying or making good the expense incurred"
- 2) "Which would be a sore loss to yourselves" MOF

II. Paul Had Been A Faithful Teacher vs 18

A. "Pray for us:..." vs 18

- 1) "Be praying for us" RHM
- 2) "Keep on praying for me" MON

B. "...for we trust we have a good conscience..."

- 1) "trust" = πειθω = "to have an assurance concerning", "to be convinced of"
- 2) "conscience" = συνειδησις = "a knowing of one's self", "being one's own witness"
- 3) "For I am convinced that my conscience is clean in regard to this matter"

C. "...in all things willing to live honestly."

- 1) "willing" = θελω = "to desire"
- 2) "honestly" = ευσχημονως = "graceful", "propriety of outward conduct", "to conduct one's life"
- 3) "My desire is to be perfectly straight and clean" MOF
- 4) "Our hearts are desiring to conduct our lives openly and above-board"

III. Paul Desired To Continue His Ministry Among Them vs 19

A. "But I beseech you the rather to do this,..."

- 1) "beseech" = παρακαλω = "to call to one's side and hence to call for aid"
- 2) "I all the more do earnestly request your prayers in this matter."

B. "...that I may be restored to you the sooner."

- 1) "restored" = αποκαθιστημι = "to put back into a former state"
- 2) "That more speedily I may be brought back to you"