**SERMON NOTES**

**Recap of Hebrews 13:**

1. **Obligations to others (vs 1-3)**
2. **Obligations to self (vs 4-6)**
3. **Obligations to the church (vs 7-19)**
   1. **Follow your leaders (vs 7-8)**
      1. Remember the leaders (elders) in their past
         1. **Heb. 2:3** – message of the gospel was confirmed to us by those who heard (i.e., apostles).
         2. The name leader denotes who they are and what they do!
         3. The bible uses the imagery of “sheep” to refer to God’s people. Similarities between people and sheep.
            * **Psalm 100:3 –** *“we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.”*
            * **John 10:11 –** *“I AM the Good Shepherd, the shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*
            * **1 Pet. 5:7 –** *“cast your cares upon him for he cares for you.”*
      2. Leaders are “under-Shepherds” who represent the true Shepherd.
      3. **Heb. 13:17** – speaks of our obligation to the present leadership of the church
         1. Obey your leaders and submit to them…for they will give an account…
            * **James 3:1** – *“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judges with a greater strictness*
            * **You honor them:** **1 Tim. 5:17** – *“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”*
      4. Why do we remember/honor our leaders and follow them? (vs 7)
         1. Because they feed us the Word of God
            * **Eph. 4:12** – Church leaders are given for the purpose of … *“equipping the saints for the work of the ministry”* and the *“building up of the body of Christ.”*
            * **Acts 20:28 –** Paul told the Ephesian elders to … *“guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock, his church, which he purchased with is own blood, over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.”*
         2. Because they serve as examples for us to follow
            * **1 Cor. 1:11** – *“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”*
            * **1 Tim.** **4:12** – *“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”*

**2.) Stay away from false teachers (vs 9-11)**

a. Its good to study the bible in a group and we want to be standing with the church throughout the ages, not in isolation.

b. False teaching in Hebrews: Trusting in certain dietary “food” restrictions to gain favor with God instead of GRACE!

i. **1 Cor. 15:10** – “I am what I am by the GRACE of God!”

ii. That grace comes from the cross of Christ (vs 10).

**3.) Be willing to suffer with Christ (vs 13).**

a. To receive his grace, we must be willing to go where he went!