

Sermon Notes

Evaluate Leaders & Teaching

Hebrews 13:7-9

Christian Sanich, 5/7/2017

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

13:7 **Carefully observe the result of the conduct of leaders.**

Evaluate if they are living in line with the word of God.

If they are, imitate the way they live their lives in faith.

An application regarding preachers you may listen to on media

13:8 **Christ doesn't change. Thus, Christianity doesn't change.**

Christian truth and morality are based on Jesus' character.

Listen to recent sermons at StoneCreekBibleChurch.org

13:9 **Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings.**

Some ways we can know if teaching is consistent with true Christianity:

Is the teaching you are hearing consistent with what Jesus taught and how He lived?

Is the teaching grace-oriented?

We are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, not by good works or religious activity.

We are also supposed to live by grace. We obey God by the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Look at people who have been living in accord with a certain teaching, and see if they have been benefited or not.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

Related reading: Saved by grace, read Ephesians 2:8-10.

Live by grace, read Galatians 2:20-21, 3:1-3, 5:16-18.

If you would like to receive weekly sermon application questions, e-mail Christian@StoneCreekBibleChurch.org

Application questions for 5/7/2017 sermon

Hebrews 13:7-9

Evaluate Leaders & Teaching

(Based on verse 7)

Whether you are totally aware you have been doing it or not, by what criteria have you typically evaluated your Christian leaders and teachers?

What do you think needs to change about how you have evaluated them? What criteria needs to go away? What criteria needs to be added or become more important?

You won't share on this answer, just think and maybe take a note. Take a few moments to each think, who are the Christian leaders you are following? Leaders in the church, a mentor, a preacher on media, etc.?

What things about those leaders' lives show you that they are living consistently according to God's word? (not perfect, just consistent)

(Try to have everyone answer this question, even if they don't share a name.)

Is there anyone you are following, listening to, that their life might suggest you shouldn't follow/ listen to? What specifically is it which makes you think that?

(Based on verse 8-9)

What has been most important to you when choosing the kind of teaching you want to listen to? Don't just say what you think you should say, but really think about what you are drawn to. As just a few examples, are you looking for more unusual, novel teaching? Are you looking for what matches your existing theology and beliefs? Are you looking for teaching that is based in a text of the Bible, and the teaching always/usually seems to fit the text really well?

Jesus is unchanging and therefore Christianity and its teachings should remain the same through the ages. What does that tell you that you should be looking for in teaching? What should you be cautious of?

The passage suggests that Christian teaching should be grace-oriented, and that we can get a hint of whether teaching is beneficial or not by watching people's lives who are following a certain brand of teaching. Can you think of an example of a kind of teaching that wouldn't hold up to those criteria? Try not to bash; just share kind of matter-of-fact what the teaching is and how it seems to fail those criteria.

What do you think needs to change about what you are looking for in teaching?

(Try to have everyone answer this question, even if they don't share a name.)

Is there any teacher or kind of teaching you listen to that maybe you should stop listening to, based on the criteria you have seen in the passage and have been discussing? What specifically is it which makes you think that?

Do you have a question for the group? It might be something you don't understand that others could help with, or something you think should be covered that hasn't.