

**A Plan for Life: Life in the Power of God's Promise**  
**Hebrews 13**  
**By Bob Young**

13:8--yesterday, v. 12; today, v. 15; forever, v. 20ff

**The Hill-and-Valley Landscape of Hebrews**

John Piper has observed that the book of Hebrews is a terrain with broad, deep valleys of doctrinal foundation and God-centered, Christ-exalting motivation in periodic peaks of practical exhortation and living examples. The writer teaches us about God and what he has done to secure precious and very great promises for our future, and then he tells us the kind of behavior that grows up from faith in these promises. So the book is radically, practically calling for outrageous choices and acts of risk-taking love, on the basis of promises that God will be all we need as we run the race for his glory. The truth concerning the infinite value of our "better and eternal possession" gives rise to the peak of love that risks the loss of property for the sake of prison visitation and does it joyfully - that's what seems outrageous. The doctrine of God's fatherly discipline in our suffering spread out as a valley of motivation leading to the peak of 12:12-14, where we are exhorted to pursue peace and holiness - the very two things that God is working in us by his discipline (12:10-11).

**Doctrinal Foundations Lead to Peaks of Exhortation**

And so it goes through the book: doctrinal foundations lead to peaks of practical exhortation. We come to the end of the book, and we expect exhortation and practical living. Doctrine comes full-circle. There is doctrine—but the focus is on how you live life. We see it in a series of imperatives throughout the chapter.

**The author in this concluding chapter says 6 things about life. Life is...**

- Daily, the daily life, 1-6
- Disciplined, the disciplined life, 7-14
- Worshipful, the worshipful life, 15-
- Holy, the holy (focused) life, 18 (honorable)
- Empowered, the equipped/empowered life, 20-21
- Shared, the shared life, 7,17,23-24

**-I- LIFE IS DAILY DISCIPLINE (1-8)**

No hit and miss, no here today and gone tomorrow, no maybes, no ands-ifs-buts.

- Keep on loving...
- Don't forget...
- Remember those in prison and mistreated...
- Honor marriage...
- Avoid covetousness, love of money...be content

How do you do it? Be satisfied by the promises of God, "I will never desert you nor will I ever forsake you."

- Remember your leaders...
- Consider their example...
- Imitate them...

How do you do it? Live in the priorities of God. Live in the presence of Christ. Today....

**-II- LIFE IS HOLY WORSHIP (9-19)**

Offer to God...

Do not forget to do good and share with others

How do you do it? Live a sacrificial life

Because of the past, we live a certain way in the present.

- Obey leaders...submit to authority
- Obey
- Pray...

**-III- LIFE IS SHARED EMPOWERMENT (20-25)**

We look to the future, forever.