

## STRUCTURE

*Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.* Heb 12:28–29

### What is this PLEASING WORSHIP that new-covenant believers offer to God?

- 13:1–6**      **Keep loving one another** (saints) **amid trial and temptation**, including in tangible care for sufferers expressing empathetic concern  
Possession noted to motivate obedience: God's enduring presence and help
- 13:7–19**      **Imitate and honor your faith-full leaders**, past and present, whose ministry features God's speaking by the eternally changeless Jesus Christ, to whom *we must go* no matter the reproach that comes
- 13:7–9      Remember and imitate the faith of *your past congregational leaders* who taught you **the eternal Jesus Christ's eternal salvation**, so that you will not be led astray by false teaching that fails to recognize his fulfillment of old-covenant rituals
    - 13:10–14      New-covenant **possessions** in Jesus that far outstrip the old-covenant privileges, including Jesus's example of enduring reproach from his own people—and you must go to (identify with) him & bear reproach
    - 13:15–16      Embracing those **possessions** as an act of worship: public identification with Jesus and sharing of material possessions
  - 13:17–19      Obey your present congregational leaders since they are losing sleep over your souls as those who must give an account to God and pray for us so that I may be restored to you sooner
- 13:20–25**      **Do all this by relying on God's equipping and enduring grace**
- 13:20–21      *Benediction* | May God, who worked to raise the Lord Jesus, also work in us what pleases him [**ongoing provision!**]
  - 13:22–25      *Final Greeting* | Bear with my word of exhortation, and greet all your leaders and all the saints; grace be with all of you [**ongoing provision!**]

## UNIFYING THEME

*As your acceptable worship offered to God through Jesus Christ (Heb 12:28–29), keep loving one another amid trial and temptation and obeying your congregational leaders even when it means bearing reproach for going to Jesus—all by embracing your possession of God's enduring and equipping grace in the eternally changeless Jesus Christ.*

## AUTHOR'S AIM

The pastor aims

- to **clarify** the acceptable worship that new-covenant believers must offer God through Jesus, which especially focuses on believers' love for one another and submission to their past and present congregational leaders who aim to strengthen them by God's grace in Jesus Christ

## Sample Response to Hebrews 13 | Mary Hannah

- to **conclude** his letter with a benediction, personal greetings (reminding the congregation that not only does he care for them, but “all those who come from Italy” care for them), and a blessing