



# Hebrews: The Whole Way

A Bible Study with John N. Oswalt at the Francis Asbury Society

## SESSION 11

*Hebrews 13*

1. Verses 1–19 are a collection of exhortations concerning the Christian life. Make a list of them. Do you see any order to them? Is there a common theme? Are there several themes?
2. Look particularly at verses 8–16. What is he talking about, and how does the discussion of altar and sacrifice work into it?
3. What is said about leaders in verses 7 and 17? Organize these comments. Why should we be submissive to leaders? Which leaders should we be submissive to?
4. Think about the significance of each of the parts of the great benediction in verses 20–21:

The “God of peace”? Why describe him that way (rather than some other)?

“Through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead...” What does the blood of the eternal covenant [what is that?] have to do with it?

“Great Shepherd of the Sheep.” Why describe Jesus that way here?

“Put you in perfect repair<sup>1</sup> for every good work that he directs you to do” (KJV)? How does this flow from what precedes?

What is pleasing to him?

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<sup>1</sup> The KJV says “make you perfect.” The word here is different from the normal word for completeness (*teleios*). So why did they translate it that way? They did so because the word means to restore something to its original condition (*katartidzo*). This is what James and John were doing to their nets when Jesus called them (Matt 4:21). So, the NIV’s “equip you with everything” seems weak to me.