

Outside the Camp

What does Heb 13:13 mean to people today, 2000 years after Christianity has developed into the favored religion of the State? Outside of its gates — the gates of that “city” — one is considered a reproach or a disgrace. If the early disciples had to go outside in order to go forth to Him who bore our sins, is that where He still is found today? He is not found in Judaism, as the call in Heb 13:13 pertained to. So is He found in Christianity today? Is there any reproach one must bear in any religion favored by the Electoral College or the Electorate? The moderate Christian has the best chance of being elected to any office, except in California, unless he is a homosexually moderate Christian, or a moderate homosexual Christian, or a politically correct Christian. Are Christians in any case outside the camp? Where is He today whom one must go forth to find?

A *reprobate* is an unprincipled person, such as one who does not retain the form or pattern of the original, or one who does not retain the Spirit and the love he had at first (Rev 2:4-5). Through such ones the retaining wall was broken down and what Paul said in Rom 9:29 came to pass — Christendom has become like Sodom and Gomorrah, but a seed was preserved, with the promise of a restoration.

Mk 9:12 — The restoration of all things is the witness of the Kingdom (Mt 24:14; Isa 26:1; 51:4; 42:6; 49:8). The time is drawing near when the good news of the Kingdom will be preached to the world as a witness and testimony of the truth. The time will come, and the witness must come from outside the camp of the organized religion and the established denominational churches (Greek and Roman) in order to initiate the movement that will take to the ends of the earth this good news of the coming Kingdom (Dan 7:27, RSV). To set the evidence before all the world, all truths which have been corrupted and tainted, falsified and hidden, must be exposed as Lk 1:79 says, enlightening the heart (Isa 62:2-3) and those sitting in this darkness covering the earth.

The restoration of Isa 49:6, which takes place *outside the camp* of both Judaism and Christianity (Heb 13:13), fulfills Mt 21:43 and 24:14, establishing the standard of Isa 49:22; 59:19-21; and 62:10-12. This objective standard gives the criterion or basis for the comparison of Mal 3:18, showing that obedience to Mt 28:18-20 brings about the holy nation of 1 Pet 2:9-10 that fulfills Jn 13:34-35 and 17:23.

A *criterion* is a basis for comparison; a reference point against which other things can be evaluated; the ideal in terms of which something can be judged; a standard on which a judgment can be made or based. Each tribe is a criterion, and together they constitute the criteria for the whole nation, showing that Yahweh is the God of each clan in each tribe (Jer 31:1).

Isa 49:6 — This witness of the Kingdom in Mt 24:14, which bears its fruit as in Mt 21:43, is the restoration of Mk 9:11-12, giving the light and the standard or criterion by which to judge the evidence. Isa 62:10-12 — Raise a standard, a banner, a signal, something that can be seen and noticed (Isa 60:4; 40:3), so as to give light to peoples in darkness so they can know and discern as Mal 3:18. It is according to an objective criterion — the level of excellence required for attainment (Ps 16:3).

Isa 62:11 – “Your salvation is coming” — Yahweh’s Salvation. Isa 56:1-2 — The Sabbaths are among the “all things” that need to be restored by the “foolish nation” composed of those from every nation (Isa 56:6; Gal 3:28; Rev 5:9).

The city of Isa 60:18 and Isa 26:1-2 and Isa 62:12 awaits the restoration that must take place outside the borders of Israel (Mal 1:5,11). The old city was fallen as Isa 1:21, Isa 26:5, Eze 24:6, and Isa 26:18 describe, even as Rev 18:2,10,18 describes its spiritual counterpart in these days — the Babylon of Christianity.

Heb 13:13 — But if anyone goes outside the camp, he must go *out to Him*, where He is (Jn 12:26), or he will be greatly disappointed when he doesn’t find Him. Even as it was in the first century, so it is in the last. They had to abandon Judaism (Heb 13:12-13; 12:2), and we had to abandon Christianity. Mt 21:43 was to happen twice. The first

Edah failed in 50 years (Jms 1:1); but the last will not be left to another people (Dan 2:28,44).

To be outside the gate or camp was considered a disgrace to Jews because it meant to be separated from the national religion, the *status quo* (Jn 8:37-47). But the true restoration will bear Messiah's reproach or disgrace, just as Moses chose to bear the reproach of being identified with Yahweh's people rather than enjoy the comfort and privilege of his life in Egypt (Heb 11:26).

To go forth to Messiah was a command to abandon Judaism. Anyone found with Messiah outside the city gate would be considered outside the Jewish community. Heb 11:26; 12:2 — The reproach of Messiah refers to the earthly disgrace Messiah received. Like Messiah, Moses chose to suffer the indignities associated with God's people instead of embracing the worldly pleasures of Pharaoh's court, choosing the greater reward (Rev 22:12). Lk 14:26,33 could be Pharaoh's court. Heb 11:27 – Moses forsook Egypt. He showed true courage and resolute determination (Ex 14:13-14).

Anything outside the camp of Christianity is considered to be a cult. But Rev 18:4 still stands: "Come out of her, My people" — come outside the camp and bear His reproach (Acts 2:36,40). Heb 13:13 is a call to Christians especially (Heb 11:24-27; 13:12-15). Heb 12:1-2 — One must bear continual insulting treatment, insolence, disrespect, being looking down upon to choose such a life. Is there any reproach one must bear in the favored religions, as in a Christian church, whether Roman, Greek, Reformed, or Protestant? (The "camp" is many encampments in juxtaposition.)

Anything outside the camp is considered strange religion. They would say, "How could anyone worship Jesus outside the gate of 'the city'?" But on the day of Pentecost Peter cried out saying, "Save yourselves from this perverse and wicked generation!" (i.e., the religion of Judaism, Acts 2:36,40; Heb 13:11-13; 11:24-31). Mk 10:30 promises persecution, and Jn 16:1-3 shows that it will be the religious people who always persecute others (or have the state execute them in their behalf).

Would anyone imagine that Heb 13:13 is speaking of Christianity today anymore than the Jews could swallow it regarding Judaism then? Messiah abandoned Judaism and was even crucified by that state religion. They demanded that the state execute Him, calling a bitter legacy upon themselves and their children (Mt 27:25). It has not gone well with them.

So on the Day of Pentecost, the new wineskin of the Body of Messiah was formed, when the new wine of the Holy Spirit was poured out into their hearts (Rom 5:5). This was the first fulfillment of our Master's words in Mt 21:43 — the Kingdom was given to them until they left their first love (Rev 2:4-5).