

Lenten Devotional Reflection
4 April 2020 (Lent Day 34)

Scripture: Hebrews 13:17-25 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.

¹⁸ Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honourably in all things. ¹⁹ I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon.

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

²² I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³ I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you. ²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy send you greetings. ²⁵ Grace be with all of you.

Message

This passage is taken from the end of the letter. The author reminds Christians to submit to church leaders who teach us. Who are they? In verse 18, the author described himself was very similar to those leaders that they “act honourably in all things”. As you read, you may have goose bumps when you find the author being so “arrogant”? Would he make people feeling uncomfortable for being so “arrogant”? However, when I think of the context of the early church, it was an age when Christians were being persecuted. Therefore, as the church’s founder and teacher, it was necessary for him to make sure his acts were approved by God, so that he could encourage and teach his brothers and sisters who were new to following God.

In his second last sentence, the author mentions “those from Italy send you greetings”. We can imagine that a group of Italian were with him at that moment, and those Italian sent their greetings to the readers of the letter, or the letter was meant to be sent to an Italian church as an encouragement to the Christians there. Today, Italy is facing the sufferings from sickness. When we read this letter, may we think of the Italians in our prayers with our souls connected with the saints in the past.

Reflection

1. How do you help yourself to act honourably in all things?

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