

# Hebrews 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

## Analysis

**Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.** This verse commands respect for spiritual leaders who faithfully taught God's Word. 'Remember' (mnēmoneuete, μνημονεύετε) means actively recalling and honoring them. 'Have the rule over you' (hēgoumenōn, ἡγουμένων, 'leading' or 'guiding') describes pastoral oversight, particularly those who 'spoken unto you the word of God' (elalēsan hymin ton logon tou theou)—faithful Bible teachers and preachers.

'Whose faith follow' (hōn mimēsthe tēn pistin, ὃν μιμεῖσθε τὴν πίστιν, 'imitate their faith') calls for emulating their trust in God and doctrinal faithfulness. The phrase 'considering the end of their conversation' (anatheōrountes tēn ekbasin tēs anastrophēs) means observing the outcome or result of their lifestyle. If their faithful teaching and living resulted in God's blessing (or faithful endurance despite suffering), this validates their example worth following.

This teaches proper regard for godly pastoral leadership—not celebrity worship or unquestioning obedience, but respect for those who faithfully teach Scripture and model Christ-like faith. Reformed theology emphasizes the regulative principle that church leaders' authority derives from faithfulness to God's Word, not ecclesiastical office alone. We honor leaders who teach truth and live consistently

with it. Their faith-filled endurance, especially unto death (martyrdom), provides powerful example for succeeding generations.

## Historical Context

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The past tense ('who have spoken') and emphasis on 'the end of their conversation' suggests these leaders had died, possibly as martyrs. Early Christian tradition records numerous first-century martyrdoms—Stephen, James son of Zebedee, James the Lord's brother, Peter, Paul, and many others. The original readers would have known faithful teachers who died for the faith, whose completed lives demonstrated persevering faith worth emulating. Later Christian generations similarly honored martyrs and faithful teachers like Polycarp, Ignatius, and others whose deaths validated their teaching. This verse established pattern of honoring faithful leaders' memory and following their example, particularly their endurance unto death.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Who are faithful spiritual teachers in your life whose faith you should imitate, and how are you doing so?
2. What 'end of their conversation'—life outcomes—validates these leaders' faith as worth following?
3. How should you honor the memory and example of faithful Christians who've gone before, especially martyrs?

## Interlinear Text

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Μνημονεύετε τῶν ἡγουμένων ὑμῶν οἵτινες  
Remember them which have the rule over you who

G3421 G3588 G2233 G5216 G3748

ἐλάλησαν ὑμῖν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ ὅν  
have spoken unto you the word of God whose

G2980 G5213 G3588 G3056 G3588 G2316 G3739

ἀναθεωροῦντες τὴν ἔκβασιν τῆς ἀναστροφῆς μιμεῖσθε  
considering the end of their conversation follow

G333 G3588 G1545 G3588 G391 G3401

τὴν πίστιν  
faith

G3588 G4102

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:17** (Parallel theme): Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

**Philippians 3:17** (Parallel theme): Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

**Hebrews 6:12** (Faith): That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** (Word): And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

**Acts 14:23** (Faith): And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

**Matthew 24:45** (Faith): Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

**1 Timothy 3:5** (References God): (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

**Hebrews 13:24** (Parallel theme): Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

**Acts 4:31** (Word): And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

**Romans 10:17** (Faith): So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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