

LESSON 14 OUTLINE

HEBREWS 13:20-25

I. Introduction to end of the letter

A. Benediction

1. Who has pursued you and established peace with you?
2. Who provides for preservation of that peace?

B. Greetings

II. v. 20-21 author's benediction

A. Benediction is a declaration of blessings from God upon His loved ones

B. v. 20 answers the first question> **who establishes peace between man and God?**

1. The God of Peace
 - a. God initiates peace all through Scripture
 - b. Peace
 - i. Not simply absence of conflict/war/strife> restoration of proximity/ intimacy with God> harmony
 - ii. For the Christian, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is
2. How does He do this?
 - a. He brought up from the dead
 - i. There had to be a death> Hebrews 9:15
 - ii. There had to be resurrection or no peace, no eternal life, no eternal kingdom, no promises
 - iii. The resurrection was a confirmation that God had accepted the sacrifice of Christ as meeting all the demands of His Holiness.
 - b. The Great Shepherd of the sheep
 - i. People are like sheep> wandering, needy, foolish, yet extremely valuable to the shepherd
 - ii. Leaders are called shepherds, eg. Judges, David (Psalm 78), spiritual leaders who failed (Jeremiah 23), God Himself (Ezekiel 34), Messiah (Isaiah 40)
 - iii. Why this title now? After so many warnings/ instructions/ exhortations, this is a warm reminder that the Shepherd will care for them.
3. How is this accomplished?
 - a. Through (by virtue of) the blood> Hebrews 9
 - b. The eternal covenant> it was sworn by God's oath as forever!
4. The Shepherd is named> Jesus (humanity) our Lord (deity)

- C. v. 21 answers second question> **who provides for the continuation of peace?**
1. Equip> not simply supply, but perfect, complete> to restore to a state of functional perfection
 - a. Who is doing this? The God of peace!
 - b. How? The Holy Spirit is distributed to each (Ch. 2) to speak through the Scriptures (Ch. 3), to testify to the facts of the new covenant.
 - c. The Word of God, the intercession of our Great High Priest
 2. To do His will> the Spirit, the Word, our High Priest will never lead or empower the Christian to violate the will of God
 3. Working in us> parallel to equipping
 - a. Who is the subject of this verb? The God of peace!
 4. That which is pleasing in His sight> the will of God, as above
 5. To whom be the glory forever> could be God or Jesus>either way is great!

III. Greetings

- A. v. 22- I exhort you to bear with this exhortation> pastoral encouragement
- B. v. 23 Joyful news> the release of Timothy
 1. Urgency of the message> author is coming soon, yet felt the need to write
 2. Timothy will come with him ONLY if he comes soon
- C. v. 24 Greet ALL> very unifying greeting
 1. Those from Italy> circumstances are unclear
- D. v. 25 GRACE! All depends on God's unearnable, unrepayable favor in initiating AND maintaining peace with active, determined enemy combatants.
 1. Grace be with you ALL> we are ONE in our God, through His perfect Son, empowered by His Spirit AMEN!

THINKING ABOUT HEBREWS 13:20-25

1. God is called the God of peace here at the end of the letter, because He has initiated and is maintaining our proximity and intimacy with Himself. What are some aspects or benefits of His peace in each of these verses:

Hebrews 2:9-15

Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-15

Hebrews 4:8-10

Hebrews 4:16, 6:19-20, 10:19-22

Hebrews 7:23-25

Hebrews 12:7-11

Hebrews 12:22-24, 28-29

Can you think of others you have learned about and by which you have been blessed?

2. Read Psalm 23 and notice what the Lord as our shepherd does-what part do we play? Read article about sheep.
3. Read John 10; 1 Peter 2:21-25, 5:1-4; Revelation 7:13-17 and note how our Great Shepherd describes Himself and is described. How does this stabilize your soul and fill you with hope?
4. Read Philippians 1:6, Colossians 2:6 and think about how you may functionally behave as if you depend on God for your salvation, but on yourself for the rest of your race to Jesus. Why do you think this is a common temptation?

5. What are some of the ways in which God equips, completes, perfects His children to do His will through His Son Jesus our Lord? How have you experienced these in your own life?

6. We often read, “To God be the glory.” What does that mean and how can you/we do this?

7. Now that we are at the end of our travels, what has impacted you most about what the author has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to write?