

Hebrews 13:20-25

The writer of Hebrews closes the book with a benediction, verses 20-21, that is resplendent in its beauty and that, in many ways, summarizes what God's desire is for the readers of this letter. In verse 22 the writer pleads with them to embrace the contents of this letter. He closes with a postscript, verses 23-25, greeting them and hoping to see them along with Timothy.

- 20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,**
21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.
22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.
23 Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.
24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.
25 Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

- 1) **"Now the God of peace..."** - True Peace comes only through God
 Peace with God - Salvation - Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20
 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."
 Peace of God - Our daily provision - Romans 15:33; Philippians 4:6-7
 "Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen."
 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
- 2) **"...that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus..."** - He has the power and authority
 Romans 1:1-4 - the resurrection of Jesus shows us God's authority and power
 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:
- 3) **"...that great shepherd of the sheep..."**
 Good Shepherd - John 10:11,14,15 - He gave His life for the sheep
 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
 "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.
 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."
 Chief Shepherd - 1 Peter 5:4 - He is coming for His sheep
 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."
 Great Shepherd - $\mu\epsilon\gamma\alpha\varsigma$ meg'-as exceedingly, greatest
 "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward," Deuteronomy 10:17.
 "For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods," Psalm 95:3.
 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ," Titus 2:13.

4) **"...through the blood of the everlasting covenant..."**

The "everlasting covenant" is the "New Covenant" of Jeremiah 31:31-34.

- 31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
- 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
- 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 9 and 10 go into great detail on the necessity of Jesus shedding His blood for sin.

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us," Hebrews 9:12.

This should have resonated with these Jewish people as Leviticus 17:11 says:

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1) **"Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,"**

"**Perfect**" means "fit, frame, mend, (make) perfect(-ly join together), prepare, restore."

The writer desires that all be in agreement with what he has written in order to do "**every good work.**"

The prayer is that believers be united in every good work that we might do God's will. In light of there being "professing" believers as well as "possessing" believers addressed in this book what is God's will for our lives?

1. God will is for us to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4) This is where God's will starts.

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

2. God will is for us to be servants, submitting (Romans 12:1-2).

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

3. God will is for us to obey the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. "

4. God will is for us to be sanctified (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."

5. God will is for us to be spirit filled (Ephesians 5:18)

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

6. God's will is for us to be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."
7. God will is for us to accept suffering (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:19)
 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
 "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."
8. God will is for us to accept His determined will (this has to do with attitude).
- Jesus prayed that God's will be done Luke 22:42
 "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."
 - Suffering for righteousness sake, for example, is accepted (Romans 5:1-5)
 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

If the above is a regular feature in your life God's will is to delight in Him and do whatever like.

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart," Psalms 37:4.

2) **"...working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,..."**

God will work out His plan for each of us. Sometimes this includes suffering (see above).

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose," Romans 8:28.

Do all things work together for our good? Or for good?

3) **"...through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen."**

Jesus the Messiah is the focal point of redemption, history, and God's glory. Religion, relationships, riches, and rule should be considered as nothing in relationship to Him. The entire purpose of this book was to show how great Jesus is!

Romans 11:

- 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
- 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
- 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

23 Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

25 Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

In a final word, like a postscript, he strongly encourages these readers to listen to what he has exhorted them to do. Put your trust and faith in Israel's Messiah, Jesus, and not in religious traditions. He could have written more but purposefully left it brief. Timothy has been in prison but is now free. He asks them to say hello to the leaders as well as all the saints and finally closes asking that God's grace be with them.