

***“God’s Great Design!”***  
***Hebrews 13:20-21***

**Introduction:**

1. Last Several Weeks - Looking At How We Can “Serve God Acceptably” As We Are Told To In Hebrews 12:28!
  - Last Week, Learned About The Responsibilities The Church Has Towards Her God-Given & God-Gifted Leaders:
    - Obey, Submit, Pray!
    - Because Each Member Of The Body Of Christ Has A Role In Order To Function In Harmony!
      - Always Following Jesus Christ As The Head Of The Body & The “Great Shepherd Of The Sheep!” (13:20)
2. The Writer Then Asked For Them To Pray For Him!
  - That He Might Remain Pure In Character & In Conduct, So That He Can Continue To Have A Profitable Ministry & Service For The Lord!
  - Now, He Offers A Prayer For Them!
    - So That They Can Continue To Have A Profitable Ministry & Service For The Lord!
  - This Is What Hebrews 13:20-21 Shows Us:
    - “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!”
3. This Is Really A Prayer That God’s Design For Your Life As A Christian Will Be Completed!
  - A Designer Is Someone Who Makes A Plan For Others To Follow - And Then Sees It Through Until It Is Complete!
    - Designers Of Homes, Computers, Clothes!
  - God Is The Great Designer!
    - He Designed This Universe! Psalm 8:3 - “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained!”
    - He Designed This World!
    - He Designed Your Body! Psalm 139:14 - “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well!”
  - The Greatest Design Is His Plan Of Redemption!
    - The Pattern Created Before Time Began!
    - The Design Woven Together Throughout Time From The Very Beginning - Until - “The Fulness Of The Times” - Until - Now - Until The Very End!
  - This Prayer Reveals Three Parts Of God’s Greatest Design, And Asks The Lord To See It Through In Your Life!

**1. *God’s Great Design For Peace!***

- 13:20 - “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!”
  - He Is The “God Of Peace!”
    - This Is His Nature & Work – To Bring Peace Between Those Who Are His Enemies Through Sin!
- He Brings Peace From Death!
  - Death Is An Enemy Of Peace!
    - Romans 8:6 - Puts These Two On Opposing Sides - “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace!”
    - There Is Rarely Any Peace In The Process Of Death!
      - Physical Struggle - Body Tries To Stay Alive!
      - Spiritual Struggle - Soul Is Apprehensive Of What Is In The Future!
      - Family Struggle - Grieving!
    - There Can Be No Peace While Death Keeps Its Sting & The Grave Keeps Its Victory!
  - “RIP - Rest In Peace” - Is Wishful Thinking!

- And The Closer We Are To Death, The More We Need To Have Real & Lasting Peace!
- How Does God Bring Peace?
- He Brings Peace Through Blood!
  - Seems To Be A Paradox? How Can Peace Be Achieved Through Bloodshed?
    - See It Throughout History In War!
    - “Pax Romana” - Roman Peace - Through Conflict & Victory!
  - Interesting Picture In Our Text:
    - “Ek” - Out - “Brought Again”
    - “En” - In - “Through”
    - In Order For Death To Go Out, Christ’s Blood Had To Come In – And Only Then, Could There Be Peace!
  - Because A Price Had To Be Paid!
    - There Was A Huge Pit Of Debt In Sin Before God!
    - Price - Blood! Before Time Began, God Chose Blood To Be The Necessary & Sufficient Price!
    - Seen From The Very Beginning!
      - Hebrews 9:22 - “Without shedding of blood is no remission!”
  - But Not Just Any Blood Would Bring Peace!
- He Brings Peace Through Jesus!
  - “The Great Shepherd Of The Sheep, Our Lord Jesus!”
  - He Is The Only One With The Authority To Bring Peace!
    - He Had No Sin In Himself!
  - He Is The Only One With The Ability To Bring Peace!
    - As Shepherd, He Has Both The Interest In & Relationship With The Ones He Would Die For!
    - John 10:11-16!
  - He Is The Only One With The Activity To Bring Peace!
    - He Laid Down His Life For His Sheep!
    - John 10:17-18!
- Are You At Peace With God Through The Blood Of Jesus Christ?
  - This Is First Necessary!
  - Because God’s Great Design For Peace Is The Basis For:

## 2. ***God’s Great Design Of Perfection!***

- 13:21a - “Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ!”
  - This Is The Substance Of The Prayer - The “Perfection” Of Those Who Have “Peace!”
    - What A Prayer!
  - “Perfection” - Used To Mend Nets - Mark 1:19 - “And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets!”
    - “Perfect” - Mend Our Broken & Torn Lives!
- The Grade Of Your Perfection!
  - Driving Through Mountains - Trucks Slow - Steep Grade - God Wants To Perfect You To The Highest Grade Possible!
  - “In Every Good Work!” - “Thing” Not Just Work!
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!”
    - Have Good Thoughts!
    - Have Good Spirit & Attitude!
    - Have Good Works!
  - What Is The Point Of These Good Things?
- The Goal For Your Perfection!
  - His Target Is Nothing Less Than: “To Do His Will!”
  - Just Like Your Shepherd: “Not My Will But Thine Be Done!”

- How Can This Be Accomplished?
- The Guide For Your Perfection!
  - “Working In You!”
    - In Chapter 12, You Are Called To Serve God “Acceptably!”
    - Here, God “Works In” You That Which Is “Acceptable” - “Wellpleasing” - Same Word!
  - Not Something We Can Do On Our Own!
    - Just As We Are Saved By God’s Grace Alone, We Grow & Serve Acceptably By God’s Grace Alone!
    - Philippians 2:13 - “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure!”
  - You Must Believe That God Provides This Perfection!
    - You Must Trust In / Rely Upon His Provision!
    - And Then Live For Him & Act With Confidence That “Christ Liveth In Me!” (Galatians 2:20)
  - Our Guide: “Through Jesus Christ!”
    - God’s Design Is Always Through Jesus Christ!
    - For Peace! For Perfection! But Also:

### 3. ***God’s Great Design For Praise!***

- 13:21b - “To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen!”
  - What Is The Purpose For God’s Peace?
  - What Is The Purpose For Your Perfection?
  - God’s Design Has Always Been & Will Always Be For The Recognition And Praise Of His Son, Jesus Christ!
    - Your Peace With God Was Designed So That You Would Give All Your Praise To Jesus!
    - Your Perfection From God Was Designed So That You Would Give All Your Praise To Jesus!
  - Is This Why You’re Here Today? To Give Praise To Jesus?
    - Is This What You’re Doing Right Now?
- This Praise Is Directed – To Jesus Christ!
  - Because Of Who He Is & What He Has Done!
  - Remember, It Is His Blood That Brought You Peace!
    - Remember, It Is His Working In You That Makes You Perfect!
- This Praise Is Displayed – Through Us!
  - Our “Perfection” & Growth Really Says Nothing About Us!
    - Or, It Shouldn’t!
    - It Says Everything About Jesus!
- This Praise Is Durable!
  - It Will Last Forever!
  - How Long Does Your Praise Last?

### **Conclusion:**

1. This Prayer Is Interesting!
  - How Much Is Focused On People & How Much Is Focused On God!
  - Our Your Prayers Based Upon What You Know About God?
    - His Character / His Promises?
2. This Prayer Is Powerful!
  - Because It Reveals & Reflects The Great Design Of God Through Redemption!
    - Peace! Between God & Sinners!
    - Perfection! For His Children - Those Who Come To Him Through The Merits & Blood Of His Son, Jesus Christ!
    - Praise! For Jesus Christ Himself!
3. This Prayer Is Personal!

- Do You Have Peace With God?
- Are You Becoming "Perfect" Through Christ? Are You Growing?
- Is Your Life Filled With Praise To Jesus Christ?

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