

Benediction and Final Greetings

Hebrews 13:20-25

I. PRAYER OF BLESSING (20-21)

A. The God of Peace (Jn 14:27; Rom 5:1)—God the Father is the initiator of peace

1. **Brought Back Jesus from the Dead**—atonement was *accepted*
2. **Through the Blood of Eternal Covenant**—how peace was made

B. Jesus—God the Son

1. Lord (Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 12:3; Phil 2:10)—communicates **authority**
2. Shepherd (Ps 23, Ezek 34; Jn 10:11-14)—pictures **care, nurture**
 - a. The Great—the ultimate; the model; under-shepherds work for
 - b. Of the Sheep—the church (flock) and all of the individual members (sheep)
3. Christ (Mat 16:16)—**Savior**; the Anointed One, promised Messiah, fulfillment of prophecy

C. Requests—we need the action of God to work within us and to empower us, so he prays for us.

1. Equip You (Mat 6:33; Jn 14:14)—supply what you need
 - a. **With everything good**—army issue, supply everything we need
 - b. **To do *His will***—for the mission
2. Work in Us (Phil 2:13 & 4:13; Rom 11:36)—train and empower
 - a. **What is pleasing to *Him***—not to us
 - b. **Through Jesus Christ**—all of salvation is through Jesus Christ.

D. **The Glory** (1 Chr 29:11; Isa 26:12)—glory for everything good that we accomplish always belongs to God, not to us.

II. **FINAL GREETINGS** (22-24)—several nuggets of treasure here

A. **Word of Exhortation** (22)

1. **Bear with**—It is a *long* letter.
2. **Brief**—Much more *could* be said about these things.

B. **Mention of Timothy** (23; 2 Tim 3:15-17)—

1. **Clue regarding identity of author** (1 Cor 4:17; Phil 2:22)
2. **More stories than we know** (Jn 21:25; 2 Tim 3:15-17)

C. **Designations within the Church** (23, 24)—titles, forms of address

1. **Brothers** (Mat 23:8)—We are family, even our leaders under God’s authority.
2. **Saints**—all of God’s redeemed people
3. **Leaders**—special responsibility, authority, recognition

D. **Benediction of Grace** (24)—a word of blessing (*bene* means “well” or “good”; *diction* means “to say” or *speak*)

III. **CONCLUSION**

It is our faith in Christ, faith attested to in history and anchored in reality beyond this life, that provides perspective that enables us to live this life with hope, purpose and joy, and to face death without fear. It is a *living hope* because Jesus Christ is our *living Savior*.

Listen to “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” (Getty/Papa)
<https://youtu.be/Oibli1rz7mw>