

## ~Hebrews~

## Lesson 41 – Conclusion

Last week we studied verses 7-19 and gained a deep understanding of the love of the brethren and the responsibilities we have with one another in the body of Christ.

- Now we are in the final 6 verses of chapter 13 and the end of the book
  - In preparing this lesson I read through these 13 chapters over and over again making outlines and comparisons to fully gain an understanding of the book
    - It was such a wonderful experience just stepping back after all we have learned these past 40 lessons and pulling it all together.
  - The entirety of the epistle is shaped around one topic and five warnings:
    - The one topic is **the blood of Jesus- His death, sacrifice for sin, and the New Covenant in Him**
      - This is the constant thread throughout the whole book
      - 41 times Paul refers to this topic- 1:3; 2:3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17; 5:8, 9; 6:19; 7:19, 27; 8:6, 8, 13; 9:11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28; 10:5, 10, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 29; 11:19; 12:2, 3, 24; 13:10, 12, 13, 20
    - The 5 warnings stem from a rejection of the **blood of Jesus** by reverting back to Judaism and rejecting Jesus and His sacrifice for sin
      - 1) Do not drift away and neglect so great a salvation by Jesus Christ- Heb 2:1-2
      - 2) Do not harden your hearts and depart from the living God. Let us fear lest any of you come short of entering into His rest, 3:8, 12, 4:1
      - 3) Do not fall away and put Jesus to an open shame, because it impossible to renew anyone who does this to repentance, Heb 6:4-6
      - 4) Do not waver, 10:23, do not forsake identifying yourselves as Christians, 10:25, Do not sin willfully by rejecting Jesus and trampling the Son of God underfoot, Heb 10:26-31
      - 5) Do not refuse Him or turn away from Him who speaks. For how much worse will it be for those who refuse Him who came from heaven as the sacrifice for sin, 12:25
- These final 6 verses that we will look at today are Paul's benediction; his final blessing to the Jerusalem church.
  - In these final verses we see his love toward the brethren displayed even being in prison.
    - In fact, this letter to the Hebrews would be the first of his five prison epistles while he is under arrest for the next two years in Rome
      - Hebrews, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians

Let's read these final six verses all together before we start taking them verse by verse:

## Hebrews 13:20-25

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>22</sup> And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. <sup>23</sup> Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. <sup>24</sup> Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. <sup>25</sup> Grace be with you all. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21 <sup>20</sup> †Now may the God of peace †who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

† *Now may the God of peace...*

- This is the Father, the God of Peace
  - Godly peace is wholeness with God; a reconciliation between God and man
- The Father sent His Son to the world to reconcile man to Himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus
  - Sin separated us from the Father, Rom 5. Because of this, man could not approach Mount Sinai, because God's holiness was unapproachable without Jesus, Heb 12:18-21
    - Therefore, God sent His Son in the flesh to be the final sacrifice for sin and bring peace and reconciliation between God and man through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
    - For by His death, He satisfied the penalty for sin and by His resurrection He administered the New Covenant in His blood as our High Priest
      - Romans 5:1-*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
      - 2 Corinthians 5:18-19-<sup>18</sup> *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...*

† *...who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead ...*

- This is the only place in the book of Hebrews that actually says the words that Jesus was raised from the dead, but Paul implies this through his whole letter.
  - To be sitting at the right of hand of the Father after death implies that He was risen from the dead.

Hebrews 1:3 *He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Hebrews 9:11 *with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

Hebrews 9:15 *And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death...*

Hebrews 10:12 *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,*

Hebrews 12:2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 13:20-21 <sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, †*that great Shepherd of the sheep*, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

† *...that great Shepherd of the sheep,*

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd- let's read John 10 to find out why Paul is referring to Jesus this way
  - John 10:9-11-<sup>9</sup> *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

- The Good Shepherd describes Jesus' death and High Priestly ministry
  - He gave His life for the sheep, for us, Heb 9:26
  - And He is the door, the Mediator of the New Covenant, 9:15

Hebrews 13:20-21 <sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, †*through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* <sup>21</sup> *make you complete in every good work to do His will,* working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- † ... *through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* <sup>21</sup> *make you complete in every good work to do His will,*
- Verses 20-21 are one long sentence that all goes back to the God of Peace, the Father, working through the Son to gain reconciliation with His family.
    - *Make you complete-* It is because of the blood of Jesus that He makes us complete.
      - Make complete, katartizo, καταρτίζω, means to be formed, equipped, and prepared for a specific purpose.
        - We see this word used in Heb 10:5, “A body You have *prepared* for Me.”
        - And Heb 11:3, “the worlds were *framed*”...
      - *Through the blood of the everlasting covenant,* because we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and brought into His New Covenant by the High Priestly ministry of Jesus, Heb 9:12, 15 we have been formed, equipped, and prepared for a specific purpose in every good work to do His will
        - These good works were placed in Christ and prepared beforehand that we should walk in them, Eph 2:10
        - These aren't good works to earn our salvation, but rather the fruit of being in Jesus, Matt 5:16
          - Good works are a result of being a Christian. We bear fruit because we are attached to the Vine, because we are in Jesus and these good works glorify the Father, John 15:8
          - Colossians 1:10- *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
      - *...prepared in every good work to do His will-*
        - “*To do*” is the word- poieo, ποιέω, so much more than to do or to make
          - This is a commitment of the heart, to commit yourself to His will
        - God's will is to have an eternal family, therefore our good works is shining His light to the world to bring glory to Him and lead many to Jesus, 1 Tim 2:4; Matt 5:16

Hebrews 13:20-21 <sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, <sup>21</sup> make you complete (prepared) in every good work to do His will, †*working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ,* to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- † ... *working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ,*
- *Working-* this is also the word poieo, ποιέω, committing
    - What is the God of Peace committing in me that is well pleasing to Him?
      - 2 Timothy 3:16–17-<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,* <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
      - He is committing His Word in me through Jesus Christ-
        - Hebrews 1:2- *He has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,*

- But more specifically He is working sanctification in me because His Word sanctifies and cleanses me unto good works, Eph 5:26; 2 Tim 2:21
  - John 17:17-*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*
- Remember when we studied the paideia, παιδεία, Heb 12, and we learned that God cleanses and sanctifies us by correcting and instructing through His Word
  - John 15:1-3-<sup>1</sup> *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He ~~takes away~~ cleanses; and every branch that bears fruit He intensely cleans and prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*
  - Hebrews 10:14- *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*
- Notice our part in all of this. We commit our heart to God, and He commits His Word to us because His Son already did all the work!

Hebrews 13:22 And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.

- *I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation...*
  - *Appeal*- parakaleo, παρακαλέω, to exhort
    - This is the same word used later in the verse, “word of exhortation”, paraklesis, παράκλησις
      - One is a verb, the other is a noun, but the same word is used.
      - Thus, he is literally saying, “I *exhort* to you brethren, bear with the word of *exhortation*...”
    - Paul titles this letter as “his word of exhortation” of which this entire letter to the Hebrews has been about the earnest admonition to persevere and endure for Jesus.
      - Don’t get swayed back under the Law by the Judaizers, for by doing so, you will be rejecting Jesus and the blood of the New Covenant
      - Chapter 12:5-11 talks specifically about the paideia, παιδεία, the correction and instruction of the Lord, and throughout this entire epistle we see words of exhortation.
    - Remember, this entire epistle is shaped around the 5 warnings exhorting the Hebrews not to fall back under the Law and reject Jesus and His sacrifice for sin,
      - **1)** Heb 2:1-2; **2)** 3:8, 12, 4:1; **3)** Heb 6:4-6; **4)** 10:23, 26-31; **5)** 12:25
- *...for I have written to you in a few words.*
  - This has perplexed many commentators because considering the other epistles of the NT, this epistle is longer than most.
    - But even so, it is still shorter than Romans and 1 Corinthians
    - And if Paul were to fully expound on the Truths that are in this book, it would have been a massive letter- (just think, we have taken 41 lessons to unpack this letter)
      - So I think what Paul is saying is “*I have written to you briefly considering the content I am presenting*”

Hebrews 13:23 Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly.

- Paul is writing to the Jerusalem church under arrest in Rome, requesting that Timothy be sent to him quickly
  - Paul was planning to be released soon and then they would both make their way back to Jerusalem.
    - These closing statements are truly Pauline in nature, and you can see his deep love for

Timothy and his request to see him again.

- Paul calls Timothy to the ministry in Acts 16:1-3 around 51AD
  - From this point on, Timothy is a faithful brother to Paul. So much that I believe Paul chooses to pass his mantle onto Timothy (the last letter of his life was 2 Timothy)

Hebrews 13:24-25 <sup>24</sup> Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. <sup>25</sup> Grace be with you all. Amen.

- *Greet all those who rule over you, and all the saints...*
  - These greetings are Paul's philadelphia, φιλadelphia, his love of the brethren
  - "*Those who rule over you*" are the elders in Jerusalem who are speaking the Word of God, taking careful thought, and watching out for their souls
    - These elders could very well be the Apostle Peter, the Apostle John, and James the Lord's brother.
      - We know these men were "pillars of the church", Gal 2:9 and still in Jerusalem around 60AD when Paul wrote this letter.
  - "*all the saints*" are the Hebrew Christians to whom he is writing this letter
    - One thing to think about. Paul is telling somebody to greet the elders and all the saints
      - Who could this be? It would have to be a trusted brother
- *Those from Italy greet you...*
  - This is the verse by which we understand that Paul is writing this from Rome
    - We know that Luke was no doubt with Paul, Acts 28:16, but we also see from his other epistles there were at least 7 others with him as well, Aristarcus, Mark, Justus, Epaphras, Demas, Tychicus, and Onesimus, Col 4:7-15
    - It was one of these men who would have delivered the letter of Hebrews to Jerusalem
- *Grace be with you all. Amen*
  - This is a classic ending to Paul's letters.
    - In fact in the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians, there was a false letter written to the Thessalonians by someone else posing as Paul that said the Day of the Lord had already come, 2 Thess 2:1-2.
      - Paul tells them that you will know this is my letter because there is a sign in every epistle, 2 Thess 3:17-18-<sup>17</sup> *The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.* <sup>18</sup> *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*
    - All 14 of Paul's epistles end with the word grace in the closing statements
      - and not one of any other NT epistle does this

I want to end by reading you a paraphrase that I wrote on the book of Hebrews. I used scripture from every chapter and laid it out so it reads like a condensed comprehensive summary of this letter.

Keep in mind the **thread of the blood of Jesus** that runs throughout and the **5 warnings** that this epistle is built on

## Summary of the Book of Hebrews

Jesus, who was in the beginning <sup>1:10</sup> with the Father, the Son of God, being God Himself <sup>1:9</sup> was appointed heir of all things <sup>1:2</sup> and through Him the Father created the forever and every living being within it <sup>1:2</sup>. That in the beginning He laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens being the work of His hands <sup>1:10</sup>. For it was in the beginning when He created man that he set this man over all the works of His hands <sup>2:7</sup>, giving him great authority that even one testified saying, "What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you take care of him? You



have made him a little lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor and set him over the works of Your hands and you have put all things in subjection under his feet. 2:6-8”

But now we do not see all things put under this man 2:8 because he sinned against God and handed his authority over to Satan, that is the devil, who then gained the power of death placing man under the eternal bondage of death 2:14-15. Therefore, we see Jesus, who for a short time was made lower than the angels for the **suffering of death** that He **might taste death for every man** 2:9. For before this it was ordained in the Law that without the **shedding of blood** there is no remission of sins, 9:22. Therefore, we see the excellent sacrifice of Abel unto the Lord 11:4, honoring in anticipation of **the One who would come as the final sacrifice for sin** 10:12. For the blood of bulls and goats does nothing to cleanse a conscience of sin 9:14, but rather establishes a hope for the One to come. And now Jesus has appeared to **put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself** 9:26, who through the eternal Spirit would **offer Himself without spot to God** 9:14. That this Man Jesus, after He had **offered one sacrifice for sins forever** 10:12, was perfected 5:9 being resurrected from the dead being called by God as the High Priest of the New Covenant 5:10 seated at the right hand of the Father 1:3, and now being the Mediator of the New Covenant **by means of death** for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant that those who believe in Him may receive the promise of eternal inheritance through Him 9:15.

Now the eternal Son, Jesus, having partaken of flesh and blood, **through death** destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil, released those who were under the bondage of death because of sin 2:14-15, and now, through Him, have been given the opportunity of eternal life in Him **through His blood**, to those who would believe in Him 5:9.

#1 **Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to these things we have heard lest we drift away, for how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation,** 2:1-3

Therefore, now that we have been redeemed let us hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of hope firm to the end, 3:6. #2 **Beware lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the Living God** 3:12, but have faith in the redemption of Jesus’ sacrifice 10:38-39. Enter His rest by ceasing from our own works trying to earn our own righteousness 4:10, but just as God rested from His works 4:4 so shall we also rest in the promise 4:1 of eternal life by the efficacious **redemptive work of Jesus** 10:12. Let us be partakers of Christ holding the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 3:14. Be diligent to enter that rest, 4:11. Therefore, because of Jesus, let us come boldly to the throne of grace. 4:16

Jesus, who has been raised from the dead, perfected unto glory for the salvation of all who would believe in Him, was called by God as the eternal High Priest, 5:7-10. However, because of your dull hearing and your lack of faith and your wavering from the New Covenant, I cannot continue speaking of the High Priestly ministry of Jesus until you become more mature, 5:11-14.

Therefore, to build you up in the faith and go on to perfection, you must leave the things that were first spoken of Christ in the Old Covenant. These were only types and shadows of things to come, but let us move on to completion and maturity in Christ because He has fulfilled the Law 6:1-3. #3 **But beware brethren not to fall back under the Law concerning the sacrifice of sin, because if you fall away after knowing the covenant of grace, it is impossible to renew you to repentance while this evil heart of unbelief is still in you** 6:4-8.

Now if you imitate the faith of your elders and the saints of the OT, and have the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, and patiently endure, and lay hold of the hope set before us, the immutability of His counsel, that which is sure and steadfast, who is Jesus Christ and His Word, then let us go on to perfection and speak about the eternal priesthood and redemption brought through Jesus Christ, 6:9-7:28.

Jesus Christ has now offered the **eternal, final sacrifice for sin** bringing in the New Covenant **by His death** and resurrection as our High Priest now appearing in the presence of God for us. Being the Mediator of the New Covenant **by means of death** for the redemption of the sins under the first covenant, that all who believe in Him may receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For it is by this **one offering of His blood** in the Holy of Holies not made with hands that He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified, <sup>8:1-10:18</sup>

Therefore, let us boldly enter the Holy of Holies **by the blood of Jesus** and draw near to God in full assurance of faith, but <sup>#4</sup> **do not reject this sacrifice and sin willfully by trampling the Son of God underfoot and counting the blood of the covenant a common thing. For if you do, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin because the Old Covenant is obsolete and by rejecting Jesus you reject the very thing that gives you eternal redemption,** <sup>10:19-31</sup>

But remember the former days after you became enlightened and you were full of faith. Even unto the persecution and torment you received for professing yourselves as Christians for you looked to the eternal reward and the enduring possession you have in heaven rather than the temporal things of this world. Remember that the just shall live by faith, but anyone who draws back, the Father has no pleasure in him. But you are not of those who draw back unto destruction, but are those who believe to the saving of the soul. Therefore, have faith and look to the reward of eternal life in our Savior Jesus Christ just as the great men and women of faith in the Old Covenant did. For since the foundation of the world, faith in the Messiah has been the avenue to God's grace and eternal life, knowing that without faith it is impossible to please Him <sup>10:32-11:40</sup>.

Therefore, having the witnesses of Old, and the inheritance of the New Covenant **in the blood of Jesus**, let us lay aside every weight of Legalism and the sin of unbelief that so easily ensnares us, looking only to Jesus, the source of eternal life and perfecter of our faith. Do not despise this letter of correction and instruction from God, neither be discouraged when you are reproved by Him, for He corrects and instructs us through His Word because He loves you and has called you His child. For it is through this loving correction and instruction that we may be partakers of His holiness and bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen yourselves and pursue peace and holiness so when Jesus reveals Himself we will see Him as He is. <sup>12:1-17</sup>

For you no longer are forbidden to approach the Father as in the days of Mount Sinai and the Law, but you have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the Living God, in which, through Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant, we can boldly approach the Father on the throne of grace. <sup>#5</sup> **See that you do not refuse Him and turn away from Him who came down from heaven as the final sacrifice for sin, for how much more punishment will there be if we refuse His Son who brings the New Covenant in His blood,** for He is the only way to eternal life with the Father. Therefore, the Father is only approachable through His Son, without Whom our God is a consuming fire, <sup>12:18-28</sup>

Wherefore, because you have received Jesus and not refused Him and have His grace, by which you can serve God acceptably, therefore, let brotherly love remain steadfast among you all. For it is the God of Peace who makes you complete in every good work to do His will, to love the brethren, and serve Him acceptably working in you what is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ. For we, those who are being sanctified, have been made one with Him who sanctifies, this is Jesus. For we are being built into the household of God and we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of hope firm and steadfast to the end, <sup>3:6, 14</sup>. Be diligent to enter into His rest and hold fast our confession of Jesus Christ, <sup>4:11, 14</sup>, showing diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, not being sluggish, but imitating the faith of the Old Covenant saints, <sup>6:11-12</sup>, and our elders who now presently take careful thought for us and watch over our souls, <sup>13:7</sup>. Let us lay hold of the hope set before us as an anchor for our soul, <sup>6:18</sup>, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today for the purpose of eternal life in Him, that He being the **surety of the New Covenant**, that which is immutable, eternal, and never changing, <sup>1:12, 6:19, 7:22, 13:8</sup>, that we might have confidence to stand our hope on the foundation of faith in Him who is the Way to eternal life, <sup>3:19, 4:1-3, 10:38, 11:1</sup>.

For we eagerly look to Jesus and everlasting life in Him <sup>12:2</sup>, waiting for a city that has eternal foundations, whose builder and maker is God, <sup>11:10</sup>. Having seen Him through faith, we are assured of Him, we embrace Him, and we confess that we are strangers and pilgrims in this earth desiring a better, that is heavenly country, <sup>11:13-16</sup>, for He has prepared a continuing city, one that we seek to come, <sup>13:14</sup>.

For Jesus, that He might **sanctify the people with His own blood**, suffered outside the gate, therefore let us go forth to Him outside the camp bearing His reproach,<sup>13:13</sup>, joyfully accepting the plundering of our property knowing that we have a better and an enduring possession in heaven, <sup>10:34</sup>. Even being tortured, not accepting deliverance, knowing that we will obtain a better resurrection, enduring mockings and scourgings, and chains and imprisonment; being stoned, sawn in two, being tempted and slain with the sword. Wandering about in sheepskins and goatskins in the deserts, being destitute, and living in dens and caves, of whom this world is not worthy, <sup>11:35-38</sup>. Refusing the passing pleasures of this world and esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than all the treasure of Egypt, for we look to the reward, the joy of living and abiding in Him forever, <sup>11:24-26</sup>. For it is those who eagerly wait for Him, that He will appear a second time, apart from sin for salvation, <sup>9:28</sup>. Let us have endurance so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise, <sup>10:36</sup>

I exhort to you brethren, bear with this word of exhortation

Grace be with you all. Amen