

Rossville Church of Christ

Doorpost Devo



December 2025



Encouragement from God's Word

A Preacher's Prayer: Hebrews 13:20-21

What does a preacher want for his people? What should a preacher desire for his congregation? What should he be praying for the people of God? The short but deeply profound prayer of Hebrews 13:20-21 gives some insights. The prayer concludes what the preacher calls a "brief word of exhortation" (Hebrews 13:22), which is the letter of Hebrews. In this letter, he is urgently pleading, warning, and encouraging his audience to see Jesus, to know his supremacy, and to endure in following him. He sees his brothers and sisters drifting and hardening their hearts, and he is longing for them to wake up, to pay attention, and to not lose heart. Why?

Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

Hebrews 13:1-9 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

Hebrews Hebrews 13:10-25 Each
Night

Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

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Discussion Questions

Hebrews 13:1-9

Discussion #1: Why does the writer give these instructions at the end of the letter? What can we learn from them?

Discussion #2: How can we better show love and hospitality to one another?

Discussion #3: Reflect on the statement that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. What does that mean to you? How can that truth help us?

Hebrews 13:10-25

Discussion #1: What does it mean to go outside the camp with Jesus? How is suffering involved in the Christian life?

Discussion #2: What role do church leaders play in the church? How should we treat them and respond to them?

Discussion #3: Reflect on the prayer in Hebrews 13:20-21. What does this prayer mean? Why do you think he asks God for these things?

Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
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- Lord, We Praise You-for your continual presence and your unchanging truth and promises.
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- Lord, Help Us-to love like Jesus, obey like Jesus, and trust him as our great shepherd.

Because he loves them deeply and knows the joy that is only found in Jesus. His concluding prayer beautifully summarizes his heart's desire for this weary, discouraged group of Christians:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

In his prayer, the writer of Hebrews is doing what he has been doing all along in the Lord—directing his readers' eyes to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. He helps us to see the God of peace, the one he is addressing in prayer. In the weariness and chaos of their lives, these discouraged followers of Jesus deeply needed to know that God is a God of peace. This God of peace does not bring peace by removing suffering or eliminating obstacles. How do we know this? Because in the very next phrase, the God of peace is described as the one who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus. God's peace is not an absence of suffering but the surety of his promise to bring life and hope in the midst of chaos and death. This is our peace—that Jesus died and rose again. This is the God who is at work in the chaos of our lives. This is the God who promises peace. In this world, we will have trouble, but we serve a God who raises the dead and has given us solid hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This preacher wants his people to know this God and to know that peace and hope are only found in God and his promises through Jesus Christ.

The prayer of the writer of Hebrews also reminds us that Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection not only gives us hope for heaven one day. What Christ has done is not just about forgiveness from sins and rescue from hell, as precious as that is. Jesus is also the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant. Christ's blood has saved us and brought us into an eternal covenant and relationship with God where our souls are directed and guided by the great shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. Jesus is Savior, but he is also Lord and shepherd. This preacher wants his people to know that Jesus is the only faithful and trustworthy guide for life. His leading as a shepherd is the only path to true wholeness and redemption. So listen to his voice. Humbly trust him. Follow him step by step. He is a good shepherd who cares for our souls and longs to guide us to abundant life in him.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

As the writer of Hebrews writer lifts our eyes to God in this prayer to see him and Jesus our great shepherd, he is calling upon this same God to work powerfully in our lives. And what does he want God to do for this people? To remove persecution? To make their lives more comfortable? To relieve the social pressure connected to following Jesus? No, he asks the God of peace to equip his people for everything good they need to do his will for his glory through Jesus Christ. What do we need more than comfort and removal of suffering in life? What do we need more than health, money, honor, or security? We need God to provide everything we need to do his will so that he gets the glory. This is a prayer offered in total confidence. The writer knows that God loves to provide his people what they need to keep going and to keep obeying his will. God's sure promise is that he will not hold back anything we to do what he has called us to do. Jesus, our great shepherd, is not only guiding us but empowering us to do all that he wants us to do. Our generous God holds nothing back. Each moment of each day, the God of peace stands ready to equip us, train us, and provide for us every good thing we need to please him and accomplish his will.

So what does a preacher want for his people? On some days, he may dream for a bigger church or more leaders or more resources or greater involvement. He might want better health for his people or less challenges. But when we see clearly and when we have the eyes of faith, we know what's most important for God's people. To see and know the God of peace. To follow Jesus our great shepherd who died for us and washes us with his blood. And for God to work through his people to give us all we need to please him and do his will. This is the prayer that God loves to answer because it is what God wants for his people too. So let us see the God of peace. Let us pray with faith through Jesus our High Priest. And let us trust that God will equip with every good thing to endure, to grow, and to obey his precious will.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9