

**The Promise: Benediction**  
Hebrews 13:20-21  
Sunday, June 10, 2012

*men, Jews and Gentiles, all causes of enmity being taken away from the whole church.”*

**INTRODUCTION**

**A. The God of Now (v.20)**

1. Present
  - a) Promises
    - (1) “Now” - but, and, now... “But now” seems to fit well in the context
    - (2) In light of prayer for the under-shepherd’s return
    - (3) Only God can give the church all she needs to endure faithfully
    - (4) She’s been promised the unshakable kingdom and will not be left alone
  - b) Provision
    - (1) God will presently give all that is necessary to live / endure faithfully
    - (2) **2 Peter 1:3-4**
2. Pleasure
  - a) **v.21** - glory “forever” - not bound by space or time
  - b) Ever-present God, ever-present glory

**B. The God of Peace (v.20)**

1. Peace
  - a) Brings together His own, unto Himself
  - b) **John Owen**, “*So all peace is from him; with himself, in our own souls, between angels and*

2. Jesus is the risen, great Shepherd of the sheep
  - a) The only peace and way to Himself
    - (1) Evidenced in brotherly love
    - (2) Evidenced in submission to godly leadership
  - b) Immanuel, God with us (**John 1:14**)
  - c) **Spurgeon**, “*You cannot make a covenant with sheep, they have not the ability to covenant; but you can make a covenant with the Shepherd for them, and so, glory be to God, though we had gone astray like lost sheep, we belonged to Jesus, and he made a covenant on our behalf, and stood for us before the living God.*”
  - d) By the blood
    - (1) **F.F. Bruce** (1910-1990) speaks of Jesus’ resurrection as “the demonstration that his sacrifice of himself has been accepted by God and the new covenant established on the basis of that sacrifice”... may be the most satisfactory interpretation.
    - (2) Redeemed His own
      - (a) His resurrection confirms the eternal nature of the new covenant
      - (b) As Hebrews has shown so much the distinctions of the old and new covenants, this is full and final
    - (3) He has become the Great Shepherd in time by coming at just the right time to redeem His sheep for all time

### **C. The God who Equips (v.21)**

1. Equip
  - a) By the blood of Christ...
  - b) You (the church)
  - c) *katartizo*; to complete thoroughly
  - d) We must pray for the Lord to equip us accordingly  
-- perfectly, fully, for His pleasure
  
2. With everything
  - a) Good
    - (1) What benefits you to do what blesses Him
    - (2) What is useful
  - b) To do His will
    - (1) **Hebrews 10:7-9** (His accomplishing the will of God)
    - (2) **Hebrews 10:36**
  - c) For His pleasure
    - (1) **12:28** "acceptable" worship
    - (2) **Philippians 2:12-13**
    - (3) God does not leave Himself un-pleased
  
3. Thru Jesus Christ (the Great Shepherd)
  - a) Supreme & Sufficient
  - b) Means & End
  
4. For His glory
  - a) Benediction ending in doxology
  - b) The natural outflow of grace (in salvation and in equipping) is praise

### **D. Application & Implications**

1. Urgency to the response...Now
  
2. Jesus as Peace means you must admit enmity and the exclusivity of Christ to reconcile
  
3. Jesus is enough
  - a) Are you seeking Him or just things from Him?
  - b) To know the good that He is equipping you with, you must know what it is He deems good, and that He is good Himself
  - c) Have you overly mystified God's will for you?
  - d) Benediction is about how God has blessed you and these blessings used for His purpose will yield doxology...you will want to see Him glorified above all else in your life and in the lives of those around you.