

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 27

The Week of May 28, 2023

Live Small

The Master Craftsman

Hebrews 13:20-21

Welcome to the final Abide before the summer. We are so grateful that you have made participation in a Growth Group an important part of your life and spiritual growth.

- Spend a few moments sharing what has been most meaningful for you this year as a part of your group.

This is also our last study in Hebrews 13. The verses posted below are a beautiful benediction or prayer and a fitting way to end the Growth Group year.

READING HEBREWS 13:20-21

²⁰ 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, ²¹ 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."

After reading the paragraph go back and do the following:

- Circle the word *may* (v. 21) and draw a circle to the left margin and write *A prayer*.
- Place a Δ over each reference to God the Father, including pronouns.
- Place a \dagger over each reference to Jesus Christ, including pronouns.
- In verse 20 double underline the four distinct phrases that serve as a preamble to the writer's prayer requests and number each one.
- In verse 21 place a bracket around the word *equip*.
- In verse 21 place a bracket around the word *working*.
- Underline the phrases, *that you may do His will* and *that which is pleasing in His sight*.

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE THROUGH DISCUSSION

1. How do you respond to the idea that you are God's workmanship or masterpiece? Do you ever think of yourself in this way? If you were to do so, what difference might it make in the way you live?

2. These verses form a benediction. Pastor Paul defined a benediction as a prayer that dispenses a blessing. How does that help you understand the importance and power of praying for one another? What does it mean to bless another person through prayer?

3. The writer of Hebrews uses four wonderful statements of theology before he makes his requests. What are those four statements? Take a moment to discuss them and how they relate to one another.

- God the Father is called the God of peace. Describe what this means and how it applies to your life.
- Why is the new covenant called eternal?
- How does the resurrection give unique assurance to the covenant established by the blood of Christ?
- Jesus is called the great shepherd. What does it mean for you to be able to say, “The Lord is my shepherd?”

4. What are the two prayer requests the writer offers on behalf of his readers? What does each word mean? Why does he pray for them in this way?

- What does it mean to do God’s will?
- What does it mean to be pleasing in God’s sight?

5. How should this prayer guide the way we pray for one another?

Spend some extra time praying and fellowshiping with one another.

Go in God's peace and have a blessed summer!

