

PRAYER AND PRAISE 20// 28 JULY 2020

Reading Heb 13:20-25

Hebrews begins (1:1-4) as a sermon, with a passage packed with meaning about God's plan for the world through His Son; Hebrews ends with a linked and 'bookended' prayer of assurance of God's plan being kept and achieved in Christ's death and resurrection (13:20-21).

Read (13:20 – 21)

1. Compare it with 1:1-4, how has God revealed Himself to His people? Who is the last and greatest prophet who has spoken to us of God's rescue plan for the world? What are the Son's roles – past, present and future?
2. Our passage begins with God described as 'the God of Peace'. Think what that might mean in relation to entering God's 'eternal rest' (see 4:7-11 and the 'promise that still stands'). Examining chapter 4, what is the entry qualification to God's Kingdom, if we are 'disobedient' as were those left in the wilderness what is the other character of God we will see (12:29 'our God is a consuming fire')?
3. Could we explain what is meant by 'the blood of the eternal covenant' (13:20) to someone who hasn't heard this expression before? What does the High Priest bring into the Most Holy Place and how does Jesus do it differently both in place and manner (see 9:12-14).
4. Christ's leadership is described as 'that Great Shepherd of the sheep'; this fits well with Jesus' compassionate remarks for the crowd in Mark 6:34, before the feeding of the five thousand. Consider creation came through him, and we have life now and in eternity because of Jesus (Revelation 7:17).

Prayer Focus

The simplest way to structure our prayers, is the 'tsp', teaspoon, method.

Thank you, our faithful Father God, that You keep Your promises; especially for sending us Your Son, our Lord and Saviour, that Great Shepherd King. Even in dark and desolate times with His rod and staff He leads us beside quiet waters, refreshes our souls and guides our paths (Psalm 23).

Sorry Heavenly Father for the times we've not loved You as we should have, tried to do things our way, and not loved our brothers and sisters as ourselves (Heb 13:1). We pray for the wisdom and strength to live our lives as the writer in Hebrews exhorts us to do.

Please equip us Lord with every good thing for doing Your will, and by Your Spirit work in us what is pleasing to You, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen** (Heb 13:21).

The writer of the Hebrews reminds his readers to 'greet all your leaders' (13:24) and to 'remember' them (13:7). Let's therefore pray for all those who lead us in our churches, asking for restorative rest and peace for them over the summer period. We pray too that the Associate Minister recruitment process will be successful and we are resourced to provide for their needs.

CREED: Jesus Christ... he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father

The Son is the radiance of God' glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Heb. 1:3)