

# **THE BENEDICTION**

## **EQUIPPED TO DO THE WILL OF GOD**

*IT'S ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR DR. WATSON!*



**DIAGRAMMING HELPS US SEE THE VERY OBVIOUS MAIN POINT OF THE TEXT**

**THE GOD OF PEACE** → **EQUIP YOU** → **TO DO HIS WILL**  
(THE ACTOR) (THE ACT) (THE PURPOSE)

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**The God of peace** [who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus] -> **equip you** [in every good thing] -> **to do his will** [by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.]

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## 1. The Benediction: That the God of peace will equip us in every good thing to do his will, 13:20-21a.

- (Hebrews 13:20–21 LSB) Now **the God of peace**, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, our Lord Jesus, 21 **equip you** in every good thing **to do His will**.

A. “Benediction” means “good word”—this good word of exhortation is a fitting conclusion to the powerful teaching of this letter to the Hebrews.

B. This is a blessing pronounced or a prayer given for the equipping of all those who have made peace with God through Jesus Christ to do the will of God.

- (Romans 5:1 LSB) Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

C. The Blessor (the God of peace) will be with all those who have peace with him through Christ.

- (Romans 15:33 LSB) **Now may the God of peace be with you all**. Amen.
- (Philippians 4:6–9 LSB) **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things. 9 **The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.**

\*\*\* **“Practice these things”** is doing God’s will.

D. The God of peace will equip us to do his will through his sanctifying work in our lives.

- (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 ESV) **Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely**, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 **He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it**.
- (John 17:17 ESV) **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth**.

**Sanctify ...** to make as dedicated to God; either in becoming more distinct, devoted, or morally pure. To separate from profane things and dedicate to God; consecrate things to God; dedicate people to God; to purify internally by renewing of the soul.

E. His equipping is comprehensive—every good thing.

- (Hebrews 13:20a–21a LSB) Now the God of peace ... **equip you in every good thing to do His will, by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ ...
- (Philippians 4:19 LSB) **And my God will fulfill all your needs** according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**Equip ...** to prepare; to make ready or suitable in advance for a particular purpose or for some use, event.

- (2 Timothy 3:16–17 ESV) All Scripture is breathed out by God **and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work**.

**Equip ...** to be fitted out; to be or become furnished or equipped with every necessary component for a task.

## 2. The benediction draws our attention to the provision of the great Shepherd of the sheep.

A. The God of peace brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant to be our Shepherd.

B. An overview/description of our Great Shepherd from various texts in Hebrews ... 1:2–3, 2:7-8, 2:17-18, 4:14-15, 5:9, 7:22, 25, 8:1-2, 9:15, 12:2.

The Great Shepherd is Jesus ... the heir of all things who upholds all things by the word of His power, has accomplished cleansing for sins, and has sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, has been crowned with glory and honor, everything is in subjection to him and nothing is outside his control.

Jesus ... became our merciful and faithful high priest to make propitiation for our sins and is able to help those who are being tempted.

Jesus ... is the apostle and high priest of our confession, our great high priest who passed through the heavens, is able to sympathize with our weaknesses, is the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, is the guarantor of a better covenant and is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to

God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus ... is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, is a minister in the holy places, is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

The Great Shepherd is Jesus ... who is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### C. The great Shepherd will shepherd his sheep.

- (Psalm 95:7a ESV) For he is our God, and **we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**
- (Psalm 23:1 ESV) **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

The Lord as our shepherd ... **supplies** our every need, **makes** us to rest, **leads** us to calming places, **restores** our souls, **leads** us in the paths of righteousness, **comforts** us and **dispels** fear from our lives by his presence, **provides** for us in the midst of our enemies, **fulfills** our lives to overflowing, **causes** goodness and mercy to follow us throughout our lives and **promises** us a place in his house forever.

### D. The sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd and obey him—they follow him and he gives them eternal life.

- (John 10:27–28 ESV) **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.** 28 **I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.**

## 3. Our main premise is that the God of peace will equip his own to do his will.

### **REVIEW ... GOD → EQUIP → DO HIS WILL.**

- (Hebrews 13:20a–21 LSB) Now **the God of peace ... equip you** in every good thing to **do His will.**

A. If our main premise ... God → equip → do his will ... is sound/valid, then it follows that those who are equipped to do his will ... will be doing his will.

- (Matthew 7:21 ESV) **Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

- (Mark 3:34–35 ESV) And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 **For whoever does the will of God,** he is my brother and sister and mother."

- (1 John 2:15–17 ESV) **Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 **For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.** 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, **but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

**\*\*\*Conformity to human passions and the pride of life runs contrary to the will of God.**

B. So it follows then that the person who is not doing God's will has not been equipped and has not been rescued from living according to his own will—he is, in fact, incapable of doing the will of God.

- (Ephesians 2:1–3 LSB) **And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**
- (Romans 1:18 LSB) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.**
- (Ephesians 4:17–18 LSB) Therefore this I say, and testify in the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, **in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their mind, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because** of the hardness of their heart.

C. God in his mercy, love and grace rescues defiant humans who cannot do his will and transforms them to be submissive humans who are now able to know and do the will of God.

- (Ephesians 2:4–5 LSB) 4 But God, being **rich in mercy** because of His **great love with which He loved us,** 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved.**

- (Romans 12:2 ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**D. Those who submit to the will of God live according to the word of God, not their own human desires.**

- (1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 ESV) **For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;** 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 **not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.**
- (1 Thessalonians 5:15–18 ESV) **See that no one repays anyone evil for evil,** but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 **Rejoice always,** 17 **pray without ceasing,** 18 **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** 19 **Do not quench the Spirit.**
- (1 Peter 4:1–2 ESV) Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 **so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.**

**4. The methodology of the blessing—The God of peace will accomplish his will in our lives by doing in us what is pleasing in his sight, 13:21b.**

- (Hebrews 13:21b LSB) ... **by doing in us what is pleasing in His sight,** through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- (Philippians 2:13 ESV) **For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

**5. We are urged to “bear with” this exhortation (letter) as the word of God, 13:22.**

- (Hebrews 13:22 LSB) But I urge you, brothers, **bear with this word of exhortation,** for I have written to you briefly.

**A. This letter would have been read to the people probably taking about an hour.**

**B. The pastor urges them to “bear with” this powerful word of exhortation—the teaching they have heard throughout the letter.**

**C. Considering the strong, convicting tone of the letter it is very possible that some would be inclined to not “bear with” the exhortation but to reject it.**

**Bear with ...** means to put up with, to endure something unpleasant or difficult; to permit; to consent to, give permission; to hold one’s self erect and firm.

- (Hebrews 2:1 LSB) For this reason **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away.**
- (2 Timothy 4:3 NIV) For the time will come **when people will not put up with sound doctrine.** Instead, **to suit their own desires,** they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. \*\*\* **“own desires”—not God’s will ...**
- (2 Corinthians 11:4 NIV) **For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached,** or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, **you put up with it easily enough.**

**6. Closing remarks, 13:23-25.**

- (Hebrews 13:23–25 LSB) Know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. 24 **Greet all of your leaders and all the saints.** Those from Italy greet you. 25 **Grace be with you all.**
- (Hebrews 4:16 LSB) **Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**
- (Hebrews 12:15 LSB) **Seeing to it that no one falls short of the grace of God;** that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.
- (Hebrews 13:9 LSB) Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; **for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace,** not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.