

## Consider Jesus: The Deliverer and The Doer Hebrews 13:20-21

It's a good thing that there is much to say in Hebrews about patience and endurance - you have patiently endured a rather long meditation in this glorious New Testament book for the past 18-19 months!

You will be hard pressed to find a more potent benediction or doxology than the one we find in Hebrews 13:20-21! In a one sentence prayer about the majestic centrality of Jesus Christ we celebrate two main ideas: 1) What God has fully and perfectly done for us in Jesus Christ; 2) What God continues to fully and perfectly do in and through us in Jesus Christ.

In both ideas, the full and perfect Deliverer is the subject. Christianity is always about a "He" (and the "He" is not "me"! ). God is never at the circumference of our lives - but always at the center. As the God of all peace - all well being and wholeness - He makes a righteous way to experience His peace through the cross of Jesus Christ. Through the saving life of Christ alone, we are delivered from the heredity of sin (Ro 3:23; 5:12) - a wrongness of being that cannot be "fixed", but can only be crucified and killed (II Cor 5:21). Through His death (and us in Him), Jesus Christ "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb 9:26).

To demonstrate the acceptance of His sacrifice, He was "brought up from the dead" (and us in Him). Thus we were saved - crucified, buried, and resurrected—by His saving life (Ro 5:8-10). Dead to what He died to, alive to what He lives to (Ro 6:10-11). That makes Him the Living Dynamic of all Christian activity (Col 1:27; Ga 2:20; Jo 15:5). As the "Good Shepherd" He dies for His sheep (Jo 10:11). As the "Great Shepherd", He lives for His sheep (Heb 13:20-21)! This full and perfect Deliverer becomes our full and perfect Equipper, Worker, Doer (Heb 13:21).

We might say that the objective truth of our salvation is for the subjective experience of living by His Life. He alone "equips" us - fixes us, puts things into place, renders us "fit" for our intended purposes. All of His adequacy, sufficiency, ability is now "working in us" (Heb 13:21). This is the Divine Way. Jesus Christ is our Supplied Life. He works Himself out of us as we cooperate by grace through faith (Col 2:6). We were newly born with a desire "to do His will" - it is our nature now. We recognize Him to be the Source and Supply of all things pleasing to God (Lk 3:22). We present ourselves to Him with a non-selective readiness to be acted upon by His indwelling Life.

As we "consider Jesus" to be all we need, we pray a simple prayer, "Live this life. You have worked Your likeness into me... now work the likeness of Yourself out of me! And to you be the glory forever and ever. Amen!"

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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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# Greetings

Have you found it more and more difficult to hold on to the idea of unchanging truth - that what is true is the same yesterday, today and forever? If you haven't, your children and grandchildren certainly have! In a recent Barna Poll (Oct 2018), twice as many people born from 1999-2010 believe what is morally right changes over time as those born between 1945-1960.

It usually takes something rather traumatic to consider that we will not be happier or better off by making up our own truth(s)! Letting our thinkers and feelers determine reality, inviting the culture, the majority, the reigning "experts" to determine what is right or wrong is to set ourselves up for such trauma.

Why not tether your mind this month to the Uncreated and Eternal Truth... what God says... so when the deceptive winds of a fallen and ever-changing world blow hard against you, you will not be carried away into captivity by their lies. Let every "below the line" question escort you into the "above the line" truth that our Father delights in revealing to His children! (See John 17:17!)

Then, abide in that truth - abandon to it, walk in it. And if the Truth Himself makes you free, you will be free indeed! (Not just in theory, but in deed!)



# CALENDAR



## SEPTEMBER

- 2 ☺ Happy Birthday Steve!
- 10 Alachua Study
- 12-15 Louisville, KY Men's Retreat (502-664-5622)
- 17 Ocala Study
- 22-28 Ashton, ID Men's Retreat

## OCTOBER

- 4-6 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)
- 18-20 Vero Beach, FL (772-563-0430)

## NOVEMBER

- 8-10 Calais, ME (772-563-0430)

**☞ For those of you planning ahead, our Florida Retreat will be Feb 21-23, 2020 in Gainesville. Details coming soon!**

## Praise & Prayer

Unchanging Truth

Our Revealing, Self-disclosing Savior

Considering Jesus in all things

To live by His Supplied Life

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