

- We are finishing our journey through the book of Hebrews today
- It has taken us 63 sermons to do so
- The book of Hebrews has almost 10,000 words
- My average sermon has almost 10,000 words
- The book of Hebrews can be read aloud in less than hour
- My average sermon is just under an hour long
- The author of Hebrews calls his **exhortation**, meaning the whole book, **brief** (13:22)
- Summation, I gave 63 brief exhortations on one brief exhortation...
- What a typical preacher!

But really, it is more than that

- Is see this as further evidence that what is before us is the Word of God and not of men
- I will testify to that fact that we barely scratched the surface
- That we spent almost 63 hours of sermons... about 1,000 hours of study on my part
 - About an hour of study for every 10 words!
 - And we did not even come close to plumbing the depths of the material

The Word of God is God's communication about Himself give to us in ways that we can comprehend

- But God is so much greater than we can comprehend!
- Yesterday Daisy Love was running letter sequences by me and asking me what they spelt
- She is only 4. She can't spell many words but she knows the alphabet and gets the concept
- She would string together letters like e-k-g-i-z and ask what that spells (she would say, "you mean like eggs, like you eat?")
- Also c-u-i-s-y (and say "you mean Jacuzzi?")
 - There was some basic grammar that we could connect on, but her understanding was so far from mine that we just had to meet somewhere
 - This is like our understanding compared to God's, and our trying to work it all out
 - Cf. "Oh, the elect" "Oh, the Trinity" "Oh, the Cross" "Oh, yeah Jesus—got it"
 - We don't really—we have some grammar and we connect.
 - But God is infinite and vast beyond our comprehension
 - We are limited in what we can spell out
 - But we do get it—eggs, Jacuzzi
 - 1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but **then** face to face

One day we shall see Jesus **face to face**—until then we are beckoned by this book to cling to Him

The author will remind us of Christ once again in these closing verses

- But first:

- There are some personal details he includes here, that we have no way of knowing anything about
- Vv. 18-19
 - What was the situation he was facing that he wanted prayer for?
 - How did prayer affect him coming to them sooner? (situationally)
- Vv. 23-24
 - Timothy was imprisoned apparently—we do not know the details
 - “Say hi to everyone for me”
 - From Italy = he is in Italy or with some people from Italy??
- But these verses nestled in between are rich and are the heart of the closing
- Vv. 20-21

The big picture:

- A time when everything was changing and persecution was happening
- At such times we have a tendency to fall back on old familiar things (Judaism)
- But Jesus is better than anything else (the point)
- Draw near to Him and cling to Him
- And grow in Him
 - Do not fail to grow—press on toward maturity (Heb 5:11-6:3)
 - The danger of drifting (Heb 2:1)
 - Drifting can lead to hardness of heart
 - Hardness of heart can lead to disbelief
 - Disbelief can lead to apostasy
 - Apostasy leads to... well, it ain't good

So the author says in 13:22

- I urge you brethren, **bear with this word** of exhortation... (NASB)
- I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, to **pay attention** to what I have written in this brief exhortation. (NLT)

They needed to

We all might be willing to confess that we need to pay closer attention to the Word of God and our spiritual lives in general

- Spiritual disciplines

Verses 20-21

What we have here is a blessing/benediction

- We normally just say “God bless you” or “blessings!”
- But look how rich this is
- Read

3 things about God in general

1. The God of peace
2. The Lord of Life
3. The One who works in you

3 specific things about Jesus

1. The great shepherd of the sheep
2. The Lord of our lives
3. The One to whom we give glory

1. The God of peace (v 20)

- Peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- Peace with one another

2. The Lord of Life (v 20)

- Resurrected Christ
- Resurrects our lives

3. The One who works in you (v 21)

- To **equip you in every good thing to do his will**
 - The word **equip** was a well known one in the first century¹
 - The KJV says **perfect you**
 - To doctors it meant to **set** a broken bone
 - To fishermen it meant to **mend** a torn net
 - To sailors it meant to **outfit** a ship for a voyage
 - To soldiers it meant to **equip** an army for battle
- What God is doing in your life is:
 - Setting and mending your broken and torn places
 - Outfitting you to be useful for His glory
 - Equipping you to walk in victory
 - To set our broken bones that we might walk right with Him
 - Mend out torn nets that we might win souls for Him
 - Outfit our souls so that we are not overwhelmed by the storms of life
 - Equip us to win over the enemy
- God is **equipping us to do His will**
- God is **working in us that which is pleasing in His sight**
 - What is God trying to accomplish in you?
 - What does it mean? What is He asking you to pick up? To lay down?
 - What if we turned 13:21 into a prayer?
 - “Lord, equip me in every way to do your will. Work in me that which is pleasing in your sight. Do it through Jesus and in such a way that He gets all the glory. Amen”

3 specific things about Jesus

1. The great shepherd of the sheep (v 20)
2. The Lord of our lives (v 20)
3. The One to whom we give glory (v 21c)

1. The great shepherd of the sheep (v 20)

- Feeding, leading, loving and caring

¹ Warren Wiersbe, *Be Confident* (Colorado Springs: Victor, 2004), 155.

2. The Lord of our lives (v 20)

- Ruling and reigning

3. The One to whom we give glory (v 21^c)

- We worship and work for Him

Jesus as seen in the Book of Hebrews:

- He is better than the prophets (1:1-2)
- Better than the angels (1:4-7, 13-14)
- He is the Son of God (1:2)
- The heir of all things (1:2)
- The sustainer of the universe (1:2)
- The creator of the world (1:2)
- The radiance of God's glory (1:3)
- The exact representation of God's nature (1:3)
- The High Priest of perfection (1:3)
- Jesus is seated at the right hand of Majesty on high (1:3)
- He has a more excellent Name (1:4)
- He is the one whom the angels worship (1:6)
- He is the Exalted King (1:8)
- The Lord of Righteousness (1:8-9)
- The Anointed One (1:9)
- The Eternal (1:11-12)
- The Unchanging One (1:12)
- The Ultimate Conqueror (1:13)
- Jesus is crowned with glory and honor (2:9)
- His is the One for Whom all things exists (2:10)
- The One Who rendered the devil powerless (2:14)
- Our deliverer (2:15)
- Our helper (2:16)
- A merciful and faithful high priest (2:17)
- The One who is able to help the tempted (2:18)
- The Apostle and High Priest of our confession (3:1)
- Worthy of more glory than Moses (3:3)
- A faithful Son (3:6)
- Our Sabbath rest (4:9)
- A great high priest (4:14)
- A sympathetic high priest (4:15)
- The sinless and enthroned One that brings us near (4:15)
- The Son of God (5:5)
- A priest forever (5:6)

- The perfect One (5:9)
- The source of eternal salvation (5:9)
- Jesus is our hope (6:19)
- He is the anchor to our souls (6:19)
- He is sure & steadfast (6:19)
- The forerunner into heaven for us (6:20)
- The high priest forever (6:20)
- Our Lord (7:14)
- An indestructible life (7:16)
- A better hope (7:19)
- The guarantee of a better covenant (7:22)
- The one who abides forever (7:24)
- The one who lives to make intercession for us (7:25)
- Holy (7:26)
- Innocent (7:26)
- undefiled (7:26)
- Separate from sinners (7:26)
- Exalted above the heavens (7:26)
- The One who offered Himself once, and for all (7:27)
- The Son made perfect forever (7:28)
- He is seated at the right hand of the throne of the majesty on high (8:1)
- He is the mediator of a better covenant (8:6)
- He is the one who gives better promises (8:6)
- The high priest of the good things to come (9:11)
- The One who obtained eternal redemption for us (9:12)
- The One without blemish (9:14)
- The One whose blood cleanses our consciences (9:14)
- The mediator of a new covenant (9:15)
- The One who puts away sin (9:26)
- The One who shall appear again (9:28)
- He is the all sufficient sacrifice (10:10)
- He is the One who perfects those who are sanctified (10:14)
- He forgives our sins forever (10:18)
- He is the author and finisher of our faith (12:2)
- He is the One who endured the cross, because of the joy set before him (12:2)
- He is the discipliner of those who he loves (12:6)
- He is the judge of all (12:23)
- His blood speaks better than Abel's sacrifice (12:24)
- He is the One who will never leave us or forsake us (13:5)
- He is the same yesterday, today and forever (13:8)

- He is the One through whom we praise God (13:15)
- Jesus is our great Shepherd (13:20)
- Jesus is our Lord (13:20)
- And Jesus is the One to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen (13:21)