

Blessed for Action

"(v.20) May the God of peace,

who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

(v.21) equip you with everything good for doing his will,
and may he work in us what is pleasing to him,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen"

Hebrews 13:20-21

Benediction = An invocation calls for the blessing of God at the beginning of a worship service; a benediction calls for God's blessing on a worship service at its conclusion.

❖ **Aaron** blessed the sons of Israel with these words:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

❖ **David** used these words at the close of his Psalm:

"May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19:14

❖ **Paul** voiced these words:

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

II Corinthians 13:14

❖ **Jude** gave these words:

"To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!. Amen"

Jude 24-25

FACTS:

- ✓ Benedictions revolve around God Himself.
- ✓ Street Christians were the first to receive this benediction.

INSIDE THIS BENEDICTION YOU WILL FIND

A God of Peace.

The writer is calling attention to the peaceful aspect of God's nature in spite of the outward appearance of things.

He is God of "mental health" meaning . . . that there be a healthy calm in the heart of all Christ followers.

Peace = completeness, wholeness, harmony.

A God of Power.

The writer is not talking about control or destruction or domination.

The writer **is** informing the Christ follower that God's power is different from all other power. God's power can do what no other force on the earth can do. God's power brings life out of death.

AND MORE

God's power destroys the power of sin which leads to death. God looked on His Son while He was dead, having taken the sins of the world into his own person, and brought Him to life again. That single, one of a kind act, was God's alone. Here is the best part of all. Because people matter to God, He will give the gift of eternal life to any who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and follow Him as their personal Leader throughout their life on earth.

A Great Leader.

By faith, Jesus becomes our leader who guards and protects us. How does Jesus protect us? The writer of Hebrews says . . . "he equips you and me with everything good for doing his will, and he works in us what is pleasing to him." **EQUIP** conveys the idea of restoring, helping along, and giving encouragement.

Are you ready to trust a God like that?

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