

Hebrews 13:22-25

The author of Hebrews writes to believers in the early church of the first century to address real concerns and to teach things actual people needed to hear. He described this letter as a “word of exhortation” (**Heb 13:22**), a written sermon from a pastor to a congregation. Though we have come to the end of this brief sermon, there are still things from which we can benefit from its final verses.

Summary

In Hebrews 13:22-25, the author writes his concluding words of this brief word of exhortation, including a postscript about Timothy and final greetings.

1. Short Letter of Exhortation vs. 22

This final section is somewhat personal; the author addresses the readers as brothers (**Heb 13:22; c.f. 3:1, 12; 10:19**). He adopts the practice of the first century using the term “brothers” for both male and female Christians.

He appeals to them to “Bear with my word of exhortation” (**Heb 13:22**)

He is telling his readers to tolerate, endure, to put up with his word of exhortation.

What is this “word of exhortation?” Throughout his epistle the author has been a faithful pastor to his people by exhorting them to listen attentively and obediently to the Word of God. Although at first glance his letter may seem to be very doctrinal, the epistle consists of pastoral admonitions that are supported by teachings derived from a sound knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Hence, the Epistle to the Hebrews is a word of exhortation written by a dedicated pastor who watches over the spiritual well-being of his people.

He says he has written briefly. It takes about an hour to read this epistolary sermon; this is the Bible’s idea of a “short” sermon.”

2. Released Timothy vs. 23

Verse 23a is like a postscript (p.s.) at the end of the letter. Is this Timothy, Paul’s faithful fellow worker? Perhaps; but we cannot be absolutely certain. We have no information about Timothy’s imprisonment. The author simply states, “Our brother Timothy has been released.” Presumably he had been imprisoned for his Christian testimony and was released. The author is not sure what plans Timothy may have, but “If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.”

When Timothy will arrive and at what place the author resides is not known.

The information here is too brief to tell us something about the time and circumstances in which the letter was written. The name of Timothy, although interesting, is of very little help in this respect. The author is not giving us detailed news items. Rather, he is writing a “word of exhortation.

3. Comprehensive Greetings vs. 24

Three times leaders in the church have been in the spotlight in **chapter 13**:

First, they are to be remembered and imitated (**Heb 13:7**). Secondly, they are to be obeyed because they are appointed by the risen head of the church, Jesus Christ, and have been given legitimate authority to fulfill their office as leaders in the church (**Heb 13:17**). Now, thirdly, they receive greetings (**Heb 13:24**). The author makes a distinction between leaders and God's people but nevertheless, greetings are sent to both leaders and saints. The author repeats the word "all" in both clauses to include every leader and every church member.

The author continues "Those who come from Italy send you greetings."

This expression can be interpreted in two ways. First, the author writes from Rome to a group of Christians living outside of Italy. Secondly, the author addressed his epistle to Christians at Rome from a place outside Italy.

4. Final Customary Greeting vs. 25

The one thing absolutely essential for these believers and for us is to hold fast to Jesus Christ. These early Christians were seeing their world change right before their eyes, just as we do. Their security, their peace, and their prosperity in the world were falling away in the face of sin and death. Meanwhile, they were commanded to live their lives: doing everything according to God's will, and pleasing him in all things.

No wonder the author of Hebrews concludes, "Grace be with you all" (**Heb 13:25**), because they were going to need God's favor and help in every way.

Summary: the Book of Hebrews

The book of Hebrews is an urgent appeal to a Christian group considering turning or returning to Judaism, persuading them of Christ's unique divine superior person and work, warning them of the dire consequences of apostasy and encouraging them to persevere in faith.

The author's method is to point out the supremacy of Christ over everything to which the readers might be tempted to turn. The author's plea is summed up in **Heb 10:23**: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." The author also tells us why believers must press on: because of the surpassing supremacy of Jesus Christ, and how we must press on: through faith in Christ, like the faith of those who went before us.

The Book of Hebrews offers an unparalleled presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ. It shows forth the supremacy of Jesus to the angels to Moses, to Joshua, and, in particular, to Aaron. The author of Hebrews gives a detailed description of Jesus as our perfect high priest. Here, we learn how and why Jesus "is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him" (**Heb 7:25**).