

#### TEXT SUMMARY

In our text, <u>Hebrews 13:20-25</u>, the preacher closes his letter with a lovely benediction and some personal greetings.

## INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. What title is given for God in our text?
- 2. What title is given for Jesus in our text?
- 3. The Timothy mentioned in our text is most likely the young man Paul recruited on his second missionary journey. What more do we know about him?

#### **DISCUSSION** (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. The ancients didn't think of peace when they thought about their deities, who were temperamental, violent, and unpredictable. What does it mean to say that the God of the Bible is "the God of peace"?
- 2. What does it mean to call Jesus "the great Shepherd of the sheep"? How are we like sheep and how is He like the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23 and John 10?
- 3. The phrase "blood of the eternal covenant" recalls several significant themes in the letter. How does this phrase remind us of what God has said about the superiority of...
  - ...Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (compared with the repeated animal sacrifices)?
  - ...the Covenant He instituted through His blood (compared with the Mosaic covenant)?
  - ...Christ's priesthood (compared with the priesthood of Aaron and his descendants)?

# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



### SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- Many people including many Christians struggle with the idea that God is a "God of peace." They struggle with a powerful sense of inadequacy in their relationship with God.
  - This struggle isn't so much an overt fear but more subterranean awareness, an angst. This means that there are unconscious assumptions in play.
    What are some of those assumptions?
  - Was there ever a time in your life (perhaps now) when you have struggled with this unconscious sense of inadequacy? Where and how did your heart and mind ever become aware of this?
  - What can you do to recalibrate your inner sense of the nature and purposes of God?
- 2. The image of God (and of His Son) as our Good Shepherd is compelling and endearing.
  - What are some of the roles of the shepherd that make this image such a good picture of God's relationship with His people?
  - How have you experienced God's "shepherding" provision in your own life? In His guidance? In His protection?
- 3. The benediction asks that God "equip" His people so that they can serve Him well? The Greek word used here is the same one used to describe a ship outfitted for voyage or a soldier equipped to fight in battle. What are some of the means God has used to equip you to serve Him?