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Hebrews 13:22-25

²² But I exhort you, brother and sisters, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. ²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you. ²⁴ Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

²⁵ Grace be with you all.

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P.S. Some Personal Remarks

- 1) Christians are called “brothers and sisters” and “saints” (cf. Heb. 2:11; 10:10)
- 2) He implies his authority as a faithful interpreter of the message of Christ handed down through the Apostles (cf. Heb. 2:3-4)
- 3) The unsurpassed Christology of Hebrews serves a pastoral purpose (“word of exhortation”)

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This Word of Exhortation

1. The Context

- we are redeemed pilgrims sojourning in a hostile wilderness toward the promised land of rest (Heb. 3:7-4:13; 11:1-12:3)
- danger! – turning away from Christ in unbelief and not entering the final rest (Heb. 3:13; 4:1)

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This Word of Exhortation

2. The Content

- exhortation – hold fast to Christ our all-sufficient High Priest (Heb. 4:14; 10:23)
- warning – do not turn away in unbelief lest you face the final, terrifying judgment of God (Heb. 2:1-3; 10:26-31)

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This Word of Exhortation

3. The Basis

- God’s final, definitive word of salvation is in His eternal, incarnate, and now exalted Son – listen to Him! (Heb. 1:1-2:4)
- Christ is our all sufficient High Priest by His once-for-all, sin-cleansing offering of Himself, and is now seated at God’s right hand (Heb. 5:1-10:18)

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²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

¹ Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, (Heb. 7:26-8:1)

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This Word of Exhortation

4. The Means

- we draw near to God to receive grace through our sympathetic High Priest, who comes to our aid (Heb. 2:18; 4:16; 10:19-22)
- mutual encouragement and exhortation in view of the final day – we must hold fast together (Heb. 3:13; 10:23-25)

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²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, ²¹ equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Hebrews 13:20-21)

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