

Daily Devotion: Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Pastor Jeff Steeber, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Avon Lake

Hebrews 13:20-21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

As soon as I read the scripture lesson assigned for my devotion today, I was transported through time and space to a very specific place. Actually, I was transported to many times and places, but to ones that all shared one thing in common...the reason for being in those places. The words from Hebrews 13:20-21 have been my preferred biblical passage to proclaim at the blessing and sending portion of committal services during my pastoral life.

I love this passage because it accomplishes what I think is almost an impossible task, providing a complete conclusion to our actions and our beliefs as Christians. When all is said and done, when we are wondering whether we have done enough, or what is right and aligned with God's will, when we are not sure what else there is left to say, these words are perfect for us.

I may not have peace in me. You may not have peace in you. That is ok. That is understandable. Thanks be to God, as Christians, we obtain our true peace not through what we do or refrain from doing, but through God. We have this eternal peace, that extends before and after us, beyond our understanding of time, because of what has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of our great shepherd, our Lord Jesus.

We have this peace because it is God's action that makes us complete in everything good. Am I good? I would say "no". God would say "yes", because God has made me so. And in being declared "good" in God's sight, I am free to live my life for others, without worrying that I am getting it all right. I can do this because everything that I do is through Jesus Christ, and in Jesus there is only glory forever and ever. This is absolutely true.

What else can I say?