

# Sermon Summary 05/17/2015

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Hebrews 13:20-21. "Extending Our Vision of God's Work in Our Lives" by Drew Hunter

In Short: Our role is to do God's will. God's role is to give us everything we need to do our role.

## Sunday's Outline

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1. Our role: What God expects of us.
  - a. "May the God of peace . . . equip you . . . *that you may do his will.*"
  - b. Notice the God-ward focus. See Heb. 10:36.
2. God's role: What we can expect from God.
  - a. "May the God of peace . . . *equip you* with everything good that you may do his will, *working in us* that which is pleasing in his sight." God's role is to ensure we do our role!
  - b. How much is our part and how much is God's?
    - i. 0% God, 100% us? (Few say this, but many live like it.) No. The verses would need to read, "May you be diligent to do God's will."
    - ii. 100% God, 0% us? We remain bad, but God works through us. No. The verses would need to read, "May God do his will through you."
    - iii. 50% God, 50% us? Or maybe 97% God, 3% us? Our role is to surrender to God's will. "We do our best, God does the rest." No. The verses would need to read, "May you first surrender to God so that he can use you to do his will."
    - iv. We need a new category! 100% God, 100% us. *We* obey God, and God is at work in *all* of it.
      1. This is an important category for understanding many New Testament passages, such as 1Thes. 5:23-24, Phil. 2:12-13, and 1Cor. 15:10.
      2. Thomas Goodwin called it "God's hidden work." It is pervasive, but often hidden *from us!*
3. How do we know God will fulfill his role? Three points from verse 20.
  - a. Jesus is the great shepherd of the sheep. He keeps us and brings us back.
  - b. The eternal covenant – the New Covenant. God promises forgiveness *and* freedom from the power of sin.
  - c. These promises were brought to us by Jesus's blood. If Jesus gave his life for you, will he not keep you?

Conclusion: This text is like moving from the suburbs, where we only see a little patch of sky above the houses, to a wide open plain where we see how big the sky really is. It is here to expand our view of God's work and God's glory.

## Help for Understanding & Application

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- 1) What do you think of the "new category" suggested? Can you view your obedience to God's will as really your work and really God's at the same time? What are the hazards of viewing Christian living as part our work and part God's (or all our work and none of God's, or all God's work and none of ours)? How does this new category change your view of daily life?
- 2) When you do God's will and another Christian compliments you for it, what is an appropriate response?
- 3) How confident are you that God will really equip you fully to do his will? How do the points in verse 20 increase that confidence? Give an example of how this confidence might change how you live.
- 4) In this context, why do you think the author refers to God as "the God of peace"?