Week One - 9/12/18

**Hebrews**

**Introduction**

1. Why Study Hebrews?
   1. Somewhat Neglected
   2. Helps Us Understand the Relationship Between the OT and NT
      1. Continuity between OT & NT
      2. How Jesus fulfills the OT. He is “Better”
      3. The Bible is the story of God’s redemption
2. Authorship - Date - Audience
   1. No Author Named
      1. The writer identifies himself as a disciple of the Apostles (2:3)
      2. Possible Authors include: Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Luke, etc.
   2. Date
      1. ~ Early 60’s
      2. Indications that the Temple was still standing
   3. Audience
      1. Jewish Christians (Primarily)
      2. Those considering returning to Judaism
3. The Main Message
   1. The Supremacy of Jesus Christ Over All Things (He is Better)
   2. Hebrews Tells Us “How” and Explains “Why” Jesus is “Better”
4. Outline
   1. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Prophets (1:1-3)
   2. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Angels (1:4-2:8)
   3. Warning: “Pay Attention” (2:1-4)
   4. Christ is Superior (Better) to Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
   5. Warning: Learn from Israel in the Wilderness (3:7-19)
   6. Christ is Superior (Better) to Aaron (4:14-7:28)
   7. Warning: “Do Not Fall Away” (5:11-6:12)
   8. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Old Covenant (8:1-10:18)
   9. Faith = Better Way of the New Covenant (10:19-13:19)
   10. Warning: Do Not Go On Sinning (10:19-39)
   11. Warning: Do Not Miss the Grace of God (12:14-24)
   12. Warning: Do Not Refuse to Listen to God (12:25-29)
   13. Exhortations / Conclusion (13:1-25)

Week Two - 9/19/18

**Hebrews**

**God’s Final Word**

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

Introduction:

* Jesus is the fullest and final revelation of who God is. . .
* The heart of this section is the fact that God has spoken

1. Two Extreme Views
   1. The Skeptical View
      1. God has not spoken
      2. He has not made Himself known
   2. God Speaks Through All Things
      1. Every religion / spiritual movement
      2. In Nature (i.e. Nature is god)
      3. In Yourself (little god)
2. How God Speaks to Us (v. 1-2)
   1. In the Past
      1. When - “Long ago”
      2. To Whom - “Our fathers”
      3. How - “at many times and in many ways. . . by the prophets”
   2. God’s Final Way of Speaking
      1. When - “last days”
      2. To Whom - “to us”
      3. How - “through His Son”
3. The Identity of the Son (v. 2-3)
   1. King (Ultimate Ruler)
      1. “Heir of all things”
      2. “Creator of all things”
      3. “Upholds all things”
   2. Prophet (Ultimate Revealer of God)
      1. “Radiance of His glory”
      2. “Exact imprint of His nature”
   3. Priest (Ultimate Savior from Sins)
      1. “Made purification for sins”
      2. “Sat down at the right hand of God”

\*Seven attributes of Christ are listed; symbolic of perfection and fullness

Week Three - 9/26/18

**Hebrews**

**Better Than the Angels**

**Hebrews 1:1-14**

1. Looking To the Angels
   1. Angels are Very Impressive
      1. Messengers, Servants unto God . . . Powerful - Faithful
      2. Encounters with Angels
         1. Luke 1:11-13
         2. Luke 2:9-10
         3. Matthew 28:2-6
   2. The people addressed in this letter seemed to be tempted to elevate angels over Christ
   3. The writer sets out to correct this. (4 ways)
2. Why Jesus is Better than the Angels:
   1. He Has a Better Name than the Angels (v. 4-5)
      1. Son of God
      2. Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14; (cf. Psalm 110)
   2. Jesus is Worshipped by the Angels (v. 6)
      1. Not to Worship Angels
         1. Revelation 22:8-9
         2. Colossians 2:18
         3. Cf. Matthew 4:9-10
      2. Angels pay homage / Worship Him
         1. Luke 2:13-14
         2. John 12:37-41 w/Isaiah 6:1-3
   3. Jesus is the King and so, ruler of the Angels (v. 7-9; 13-14)
      1. Psalm 45:6-7
      2. Psalm 110
      3. (v. 7) - Angels are His Servants
   4. Jesus is Creator of all things, including the Angels (v. 10-12)
      1. Citing Psalm 102:25-27 - Jesus is there in the beginning as Creator
      2. Contrast between Creator / Creature

Conclusion - Implications

1. Turn to Jesus, not Angels
2. The Angels Worship and serve Christ

Week Four - 10/3/18

**Hebrews**

**Pay Attention!**

**Hebrews 2:1-4**

* We must pay attention because . . .

1. We Have a Tendency to Drift (v. 1)
   1. Our sinful hearts naturally drift away from God
      1. The word for “drift” means to “let slip” or “flow by” (i.e. a rudderless ship)
      2. What causes people to drift?
      3. It’s very subtle at first
   2. Does it mean that a person can lose their salvation?
      1. A person who is truly converted cannot lose their salvation
      2. Warning given because many people seem to be “saved”, but are not truly converted. (i.e. Judas)

* We must pay attention because. . .

1. God is Holy and Just. He Will Hold People Accountable (v. 2-3a)
   1. God held people accountable for the message of salvation delivered in the Old Testament
      1. The Old Testament message was true as it pointed to Christ (i.e. Abraham believed by faith)
      2. Those who rejected the message received just retribution
   2. God will certainly hold people accountable for the saving message of Jesus (v.3a)
      1. Even more clear
      2. Parable of Vineyard Tenants (Matthew 20:1ff)

* We must pay attention because. . .

1. The Message of Jesus is Clear and True (v. 3b-4)
   1. Jesus himself came to earth and proclaimed the message
   2. The Apostles proclaimed the message
   3. The message was confirmed by the Spirit

Conclusion - Things to Consider

* Your tendency to “drift”
* What can you do to keep from drifting?

Week Five - 10/17/18

**Hebrews**

**The Humanity of Christ**

**Hebrews 2:5-13**

1. Man’s Dignity (v. 5-8a)
   1. Image Bearers (v. 6-7)
      1. Glory - Honor - Dignity
      2. Greater than the Angels
      3. “God said” vs. “Let us” (Genesis 1)
   2. Man is made for a special purpose (v. 7)
      1. Reflect His glory
      2. Dominion over the Earth
2. Man’s Depravity (What Went Wrong) (v. 8b)
   1. We do not reflect His glory as we should and we do not rule as we ought
      1. The Fall (Irony)
      2. Marred Image
      3. “Broken” World - (Romans 8:22-24)
   2. The “World’s” perspective on the problem with humanity
      1. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      2. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      3. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Man’s Deliverer (v. 7-13)
   1. The distinctiveness of who Christ is
   2. “Tasted death for everyone”
      1. There is salvation in no one else
      2. Doesn’t mean that every single person will be saved
      3. He brings “many” to glory
   3. “Founder” (Pioneer)
      1. He suffered for our sin. . .
      2. He was raised. . .
      3. He was glorified. . .

Week six - 10/24/18

**Hebrews**

**Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

Two big ideas regarding Jesus as our High Priest

1. He Has to be Truly Human (v.14)
   1. Incarnation
      1. Jesus’ humanity is as important as his divinity in terms of salvation
      2. 100% God; 100% Man (Human)
   2. Heresies (Regarding his humanity)
      1. Docetism
      2. Apollinerianism
   3. Two things Jesus’ death accomplishes
      1. Deals with Satan (v.14b)
         1. Defeats the devil, who holds the power of death
         2. Conflict between Jesus and Satan has been going on for ages (Genesis 3:15)
      2. Jesus’ death satisfies the wrath of God against sin (v.17-18)
         1. 1 John 4:10
         2. Romans 3:23-25
         3. We do not have to fear the wrath of God
2. He Experienced the Life of a Real Human Being
   1. He experienced everything we experience (v.17a) - made like us in every way (but without sin)
   2. How did he suffer (ways)

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Week seven - 10/31/18

**Moses was Good,**

**Jesus is Better**

**Hebrews 3:1-6**

The Admonition - “Consider or Fix your eyes on Jesus.”

1. Consider Jesus Because of Who You are in Him
   1. You’re “Holy” - Set apart by/for God
   2. You’re part of God’s family - Brothers (Sisters)
   3. Your Heavenly Calling (New Citizenship)
2. Consider Jesus Because of Who He Is . . .
   1. The “Bridge” to God for us
      1. Apostle - Speaks for God to man
      2. High Priest - Speaks for men to God
   2. He is Greater than Moses
      1. Both faithful to God
      2. Moses is part of the household of God; Jesus is the builder of God’s household
      3. Moses is a servant in the house of God; Jesus is the owner of the house

Week eight - 11/7/18

**A Warning Against Unbelief**

**Hebrews 3:7-19**

1. Warning - Do Not Allow Your Heart to Grow Cold, Hard, Callous
   1. Harden - Different than “Drifting”
      1. Expectations placed upon God
      2. Feel let down by God
      3. Put God to the test
      4. Place God in the “dock”
   2. Old Testament Example - Psalm 95:7-11
      1. “Holy Spirit says” =
      2. Complaining - Numbers 14:1-4; 20-23; Numbers 11:4-6; 16:1-3
   3. Heart Issue:
      1. Heart represents Volition (will), Intellect, Emotions, Motivation
      2. Matthew 15:17-18
   4. Authentic Faith (Saving)
      1. Notitia =
      2. Assensus =
      3. Fiducia =
2. Admonition (v. 12-15)
   1. “Take Heed”
   2. “Exhort one another”

Week Nine - 11/14/18

**Better “Rest” than Joshua Could Give**

**Hebrews 4:1-11**

1. The “Rest” God Offers to His People
   1. Initially the “Rest” Referred to the Land of Canaan
      1. Psalm 95:7-11 - God’s judgment on unbelieving Israelites
      2. Not permitted to enter the “rest” of the promised land
   2. Canaan was a Picture of the Ultimate ”Rest” Jesus Provides
      1. Psalm 95:7-11 - Invites present day readers to enter his rest even though they are already in the land of Canaan
      2. David wrote this Psalm when the people had already entered the land. This speaks to a future, greater “rest”
   3. The Promise of Entering Still Remains Today (v.1)
   4. Reminded That if Joshua Had Given Them Rest, God would not have Spoken of Another Day Later On (v.8)
2. What is This “Rest” Like?
   1. Heavenly Rest (Sabbath)
      1. References Creation
      2. We will rest from our labors (v.10)
      3. Weekly Sabbath (Lord’s Day) = A “taste” of heavenly rest
3. How Do We Enter This Rest?
   1. Fear (v.1,6)
   2. Faith (v.2,3)
   3. Fight (Strive)

Week #10 - 3/16/19

**Personal, Powerful,**

**Penetrating**

**Hebrews 4:11-13**

Review - Jesus is Better . . .

A. Why Do We Doubt God’s Word?

B. Three Qualities That Remind Us That We Can/Should Trust God’s Word (Bible)

1) Living (Personal) - Zoe

* L.C. #4 - How does it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?
  + The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity, by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation: but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very Word of God.
  + 1 Peter 1:23 - “ . . . Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable seed, through the living and abiding word of God . . .”
  + James 1:18 - “of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth . . .”
  + Ways that it shows that it is the Living Word of God

2) Active (Powerful)

* Effectual - Accomplishes its intended purposes
* Isaiah 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”
* 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the Word of God, which is at work in you . . .”
* It Transforms lives / cultures
* Shapes our Worldview, Character, Perspective . . .
* It Warns, Confronts, Rebukes, Humbles, Encourages, Guides, Instructs, etc.

3) Sharp (Penetrating)

* Idea: Cuts through all the layers, gets to the core
* Acts 2:37 - “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart . . .”
* It discerns our thoughts and intentions (motives)
* Give Examples

Week #11 - 3/14/19

**Our Great High Priest**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

1. As High Priest Jesus Intercedes on Our Behalf (v. 14)
   1. He intercedes in the very presence of the Father
      1. Old Testament Priest into the Holy of Holies
      2. Jesus went into the heavenly Temple to intercede
   2. Old Testament High Priest had (human) limitations
   3. Jesus, as the Eternal Son of God, lives forever to intercede for His people
2. As High Priest He’s Able to Fully Sympathize With Us (v. 15a)
   1. He experienced all the miseries, temptations, trials of this life
   2. He knows all the difficulties that we face
   3. He endured and did not give in (to sin) for our sake
   4. We can / ought to turn to Him in our struggles / pain
3. As High Priest Jesus Actually Purifies Us (v. 15b - 16)
   1. Old Testament High Priest could not really take away sin
      1. Animals could not take away sin because they can not represent humans
      2. Old Testament High Priest(s) needed to sacrifice; they were sinners as well
   2. Jesus could really cleanse (purify) us because He was not a sinner
      1. His perfect obedience allows Him to be a pure sacrifice
      2. His perfect obedience allows His righteousness to be “credited” to our account
   3. We are able to approach God with confidence; without fear of judgment

Week #12 - 3/28/19

**Watch Out for Apostasy**

**Hebrews 5:11-6:3**

1. Apostasy
   1. What It’s Not:
      1. Not a Christian who is struggling with the faith (unsure)
      2. Not a Christian who has backslidden - fallen into serious sin
      3. Not making a mere profession - then quickly falling away
   2. What is an Apostate?
      1. A person who seemed to be a true believer
      2. Participated in the life of the church
      3. Eventually rejects, renounces, or redefines the essentials of the faith
   3. Apostasy
      1. Reminds us that there have been and will continue to be those who seem to be true believers, but they are not (1 John 2:19)
      2. They did not lose their salvation; they were never truly converted
   4. Warning-Spiritual Immaturity may be a sign - leading to apostasy (v. 11-14)
      1. Do not listen very well (v. 11)
      2. They were forgetful (v. 12)
      3. They were unskilled (in the word)
      4. They were undiscerning
   5. Hopeful Encouragement (6:1-3)
      1. Repentance / Faith
      2. Washings ~ Baptism
      3. Resurrection of the dead / Judgment

We need to build on these

Week #12 - 3/28/19

**Hebrews**

**Supplemental Scriptures**

1 John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they are not of us.

Matthew 7:21-23 - Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

(Think of so many “Churches” in our day)

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Peter 2:20-21 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

* Jude

Week #13 - 4/10/19

**Assurance of Salvation**

**Hebrews 6:9-12**

1. Provides Comfort for Authentic Believers (v. 9-10)
   1. Warned of the Danger of Apostasy
   2. He knows that some would be discouraged and others worried
   3. Expresses confidence, uses intimate language (v. 9)
      1. (Q.) How can we have Assurance of Salvation?
      2. (A.) Work(s) - Love - Service to the glory of God and to the good of others.
2. These are Rooted, Grounded and Flow from Regeneration **Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)** **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
   1. New Creation in Christ
   2. Worldview - Purpose - Priorities - Desires have changed
   3. Change has come from outside of yourself, not from within yourself **Romans 8:16 (ESV)** **16** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
3. Genuine Faith is Accompanied by Visible and Ongoing Evidence
   1. Ephesians 2:10
   2. Titus 1:10-16; 2:11-14; 3:1-8
   3. James 2:14-18, 26
   4. 1 John 2:1-6
4. Genuine Faith is Concerned with Serving Others

# **Mark 10:45 (ESV)** **45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

# **Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV) 3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

* 1. Selfless vs. Selfish
  2. Generous vs. Greedy
  3. Humble vs. Haughty

1. Godly Servants . . .
   1. Do not keep a record (of what they do for others or of what others do for them)
   2. Carry no expectation of reciprocation
   3. Do not hold / lord it over others
   4. Keep complaints at a minimum
   5. Do not do what they do for show
   6. Do not show partiality (try hard not to)

Week # 14 - 4/24/19

**Jesus and Melchizedek**

**Hebrews 7:1-10**

Argument: Jesus’ priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood because the priestly line of Melchizedek is superior to the priestly line of Levi

1. Who is Melchizedek (v. 1-3)
   1. An Historical Person (Genesis 14:18-20)
      1. Blessed Abraham
      2. Received tithes from Abraham
   2. A Type of Christ
      1. Type: Reference to things in the Old Testament that point forward to the person/work of Christ
      2. Types include persons, institutions, offices, ceremonies, events, etc.
      3. Examples of Types of Christ in the Old Testament (cf. Luke 24)

4. Melchizedek as a Type of Christ

a) He was a king

b) He was a priest

c) “Seemed” to be eternal

II. Reasons the Melchizedek Priesthood was Superior to the Levitical Priesthood

A. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek

B. Abraham was Blessed by Melchizedek

Week #15 - 5/8/19

**A Better High Priest**

**Hebrews 7:11-28**

1. Four Aspects of Jesus’ Priesthood
   * 1. His Priesthood is Kingly (v. 11-14)
        1. Psalm 110:4
        2. The Old Testament priesthood was not sufficient
        3. Jesus is unique - Holds two distinct offices (Priest/King)
        4. He is both: Savior and Lord; Humble and Exalted; Lion and Lamb
     2. As High Priest He Lives Forever (v. 15-19; 23-25)
        1. They were many (temporary)
        2. Jesus’ is Permanent
     3. His Priesthood is Certain (v. 20-22)
        1. Psalm 110:4- “He swore . . .”
        2. Temporary Old Testament Institutions
        3. Gracious Assurance
     4. His Priesthood is Perfect (v. 26-28)
        1. This could never be said of the Old Testament priests
        2. Jesus’ one-time sacrifice was what all the other countless sacrifices pointed to
        3. Jesus offered himself (not an animal) as a perfect sacrifice
2. Jesus Brings Four Things Together That Were Always Separate in the Old Testament Sacrificial System:
   * 1. God
     2. Priest
     3. Sacrifice
     4. People

Week # 16 - 5/15/19

**What Makes Jesus a Better High Priest**

**Hebrews 8:1-6**

There are three things that the writer points out that make Jesus a better (Perfect) high priest

1. Jesus Offered a Better Sacrifice (v.3)
   1. In the Old Testament animals were sacrificed
   2. Teaching = Sin requires a payment, the shedding of blood; a life
   3. Animal Sacrifice represented a substitutionary atonement, but did not actually take away the sin of the one making the offering
   4. What does Jesus have to offer?
   5. Implications
2. Offered In a Better Place (v.2)
   1. Old Testament Priests took the blood inside the tent - to the altar - into the Holy of Holies
   2. Jesus never went behind the curtain, but to the true Holy of Holies
3. A Better Result (v.1)
   1. Old Testament sacrifices were continual, a constant reminder of our sin and our need of forgiveness
   2. Jesus “sat down” - symbolic of completion - fulfillment - accomplishment