

SOME NOTES ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

- I. Why I think Paul wrote or collaborated in writing this letter.
 - A. Paul was not well-liked or trusted among the Jews. The mention of his name would have caused some not to read or trust the content of the letter.
 - B. Paul loved the Jews and wanted to see them well-grounded in their faith.
 - C. Paul wasn't an apostle to the Jews, so he did not write this letter from that position. He wrote as a fellow believing Jew.
 - D. 100 ancient writers and leaders believed that Paul wrote this letter.
 - E. Hebrews is very similar in content to Galatians.
 - F. Four historic Councils of the Church –Syrian, Laodicean, Carthage and Trent—stated that Paul wrote Hebrews.
 - G. Peter mentioned that Paul wrote to the Hebrews in 2 Peter 2:15.

- II. Why others feel that Paul did not write this letter.
 - A. There is no specific reference to Paul in the letter.
 - B. The Greek isn't like the Greek Paul used in his other letters.
 - C. Paul's bluntness and directness are missing.
 - D. Paul usually opened his letters expressing his apostolic authority.
 - E. There is no reference to his dramatic conversion from Judaism.
 - F. Martin Luther thought Apollos wrote it. Others held that Luke, Barnabas, Priscilla or Clement wrote it.

- III. Objectives in writing to the Hebrews
 - A. To establish the superiority of the New Covenant to the Old
 1. Better Name – 1:4
 2. Better things – 6:9
 3. Better hope – 7:19
 4. Better Testament – 7:22
 5. Better covenant – 8:6
 6. Better sacrifices – 9:23
 7. Better substance – 10:24
 8. Better country – 11:16
 9. Better resurrection – 11:35
 10. Better provision – 11:40
 11. Better testimony – 12:24

 - B. To contrast Jesus with the Old Covenant traditions
 - C. To focus on Jesus' High Priesthood
 - D. To contrast the shadow of the Old with the reality of the New
 - E. To warn the Hebrews not to fall back

IV. General themes in Hebrews

A. The supremacy and finality of Christian revelation

B. The character of Christ

1. He pre-existed – 1:1+
2. He was a man – 2:7
3. He was exalted
4. He was superior to angels, Moses and Joshua
5. He was a High Priest
6. His work as a High Priest

C. The demands of the New Covenant

1. Faith
2. Hope
3. Social life
4. Marriage bed
5. Private life
6. Religious life

V. The “let us” admonitions

A. Fear – 4:1

B. Be diligent – 4:11

C. Hold fast – 4:14

D. Draw near with confidence – 4:16

E. Press on to maturity – 6:1

F. Draw near – 10:22

G. Hold fast the confession of our hope – 10:23

H. Consider one another/be concerned for one another – 10:24

I. Lay aside every weight – 12:1

J. Run the race – 12:1

K. Have grace – 12:28

L. Go forth to Him, outside the camp – 13:13

M. Continually offer a sacrifice of praise – 13:14

VI. Five warnings of Hebrews

A. Take heed to what Jesus said – 2:1-4

B. Do not be like Israel who did not enter God’s rest – 4:1-3

C. Do not be slothful or deny Jesus is the Christ – 5-6:1-3

D. Denying Christ means eternal punishment – 10:26-39

E. Beware of sin and rejection of Christ – 12:14-29