

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Christ - the Perfect and Final Expression of God

There is no identification to tell us who the author of Hebrews was or who they were writing to. Hebrews is saturated with Jewish law and sacrifices, so most perceive it was written to the Hebrew believers and perhaps some unbelieving Jews who were attracted to the message of Jesus Christ. We do know that they were facing persecution because of their belief in Jesus Christ. Their persecution tempted them to shed any identification with Jesus Christ and embrace the ritualistic ceremonies that they were familiar with. The author stresses the superiority of Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to have faith that they have unrestricted access because Jesus Christ is the full, final and complete expression of God.

Doctrinal Instruction - Christ is Superior (Chapters 1-10)

God's ultimate revelation can be found in Jesus Christ. He is a better messenger, moderator, mediator, ministry, monument, method, and manner.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How is Christ a better messenger than the angels? a better moderator than Moses? a better mediator than Aaron and the priesthood? a ministry better than the ministry of the Old Covenant? a better monument/sanctuary than the Tabernacle? a better method than animal sacrifice?
- b. How has our approach to the throne of God changed since Jesus became our High Priest?
- c. What is the difference between the old and new covenant?
- d. What is the better method that Christ brought for the forgiveness of sins?
- e. What did Jesus come to do? What did he say from the cross to tell God that His work was complete?

Practical Exhortation - Faith Produces Better Behavior (Chapters 11-13)

Faith produces better behavior than the law. We find a list of a "great cloud of witnesses" summoned as examples of faith. Hebrews 11 the "Hall of Faith" it is the honor roll of old testament. Biblical faith is based on evidence and placed in the character of God.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Who are the cloud of witnesses who lived by faith and are mentioned in chapter 11?
- b. What are some things other than God that people put their faith in today?
- c. Examine your heart: What things in your life are weighing you down--hindering you from reaching the goal? Are you running a good race, a race to capture the prize?
- d. How does chastening indicate we are children of God?
- e. What is the encouragement that is given in chapter 12?
- f. In verse 13:20 we find one of the most beautiful benedictions in all of scripture and it sums up the message of Hebrews. Who do you know that you could pray this for?

"If we would travel far, we must travel light." - author unknown