

“Understanding Good, Better, & Best”

Hebrew 1:1-14

May 13, 2018

Welcome.... Series Title: “Hold On” (stems from....)

Prayer

Goal

Your perspective/expectation for the Bible & Hebrews

- 3 Point Outline for both... See in both...
 - Inform
 - Inspect
 - Inspire

- Sample of the Bible:
 - Inform
 - God’s Person
 - God’s Power
 - God’s Plan
 - God’s Purpose
 - God’s Promises

 - Inspect
 - Law
 - Prophets
 - Gospels
 - Acts
 - Epistles
 - WARNING = all Bible, Gospel, Christians

- Inspire
 - Loads of love...
 - Amazing grace
 - Miraculous mercy
 - Blessing in obedience
 - ALL of the N.T. is inspiration!
 - Revelation is the inspiration of inspiration...

BIG IDEA: Hebrews Informs, Inspects, & Inspires!

➤ Outline of Hebrews:

- Inform = 1:1-3
 - High Christology
 - Jesus is God!
 - Jesus is BEST... better than everything else!

- Inspect = 1:4 – 10:31
 - 4 out of 5 warnings in Hebrews...
 - Jesus is better than “all others” – are you living this out?

- Inspire = ch.11-13
 - Hall of Fame of faith
 - Jesus’ example
 - 13:22 = urging & exhorting = inspiration!
 - Hebrews = an exhortation of inspiration!
 - I preach Hebrews as an exhortation...

Single Focus = Jesus is much superior... better... BEST!!!

“Hebrews is in part, the Bible’s divinely inspired, New Testament commentary on the divinely inspired Old Testament.” - JDP

Like the opening words of the Gospel of John, the introductory premise of Hebrews (found in the first 3 verses here vs. the first 18 verses of John) serves as a foundational & defining Christological contextualization for everything that follows – be it warnings, exhortation, or celebration. - JDP

Unpack Hebrews’ “big picture” pyramid:

A. Exhortation:

- a. He’s better!
- b. YOU better-NOT...
- c. Worship vs. Warning
- d. Remembering vs. Rebuking

B. Hebrews = encouraging AND exhorting because...

- a. Jesus is better... Warning #1 = Don’t DRIFT
- b. Jesus is better... Warning #2 = Don’t DISCONNECT
- c. Jesus is better... Warning #3 = Don’t DILLY-DALLY
- d. Jesus is better... Warning #4 = Don’t DISOBEY
- e. Jesus is better... Warning #5 = Don’t DENY & DEFY

VIDEO #1 = *The TRUE Christian* (parable of the foolish bridesmaids)
David Wilkerson

- No true commitment
- Committed/Christian in name only
- No passion, no intimacy, no deep desire, no sacrifice...
- Those who REALLY believe... really behave with obedience!
- The Devil believes... & trembles... YOU don't tremble...
- Too many "wise maidservants" are becoming foolish ones...
- Disobedience & drifting are kissing cousins...
- You drift when you're dry.... Many drift, then they die!
- Then Jesus slammed the door shut in their face...
- Jesus loves the wise & the foolish... And He is just over ALL

Continuing Hebrews' Overview:

- I. **Author** – (unknown... with much speculation)
- II. **Authority**
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17!!!
 - b. Biblical-Simplist or Compatibilist...
 - c. John 10 – the Good Shepherd keeps His sheep!!!
 - i. No one gets a divorce from Jesus
 - ii. No adopted children are brought back the orphanage
 - iii. KEY: so if you're beginning to drift & disconnect... it's YOU!
 - iv. **KEY:** if you are going discontent... your heart is hardening.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Apathy | Dismissiveness |
| 2. Aggravation | Disgruntleness |
| 3. Aggression | Divisiveness |

- v. **KEY:** if you're looking for loopholes... that's a love problem!
 - 1. Be careful...
 - 2. You're like the "disciples" of John 6
 - 3. "...they followed Him no more" = LOST!

VIDEO #2: "You're CHANGING"

III. Audience

- a. Unknown in particular
- b. Known in principle

Keep in mind that the book of Hebrews is written to Jewish people, primarily to Jewish believers but also to Jewish unbelievers. Both groups are pressed with the truth that the New Covenant is better than the Old—that Jesus Christ is the better Priest, and the better Mediator, and that He is the final Priest and the final Sacrifice at the same time. Throughout the book we have comparisons between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant and between Jesus Christ and everyone else, to show that Jesus is superior in every way. - John MacArthur

- c. Persecution has come (with NERO)
 - i. Judaism is OK
 - ii. Temple worship is OK
 - iii. True Christ-following = persecution!

- d. Opens the door to destructive debate on audience:
 - i. Arminianism.... “lose your salvation”
 - ii. Calvinism.... “once saved, always saved”

- e. This debate is devilish distraction:
 - i. Everyone accepts it’s a WARNING
 - ii. Hebrews was written to a group of professing Jewish Christians
 - iii. All groups of professing Christians are groups of “humans”
 - iv. All groups of humans are imperfect, even Christians
 - v. Thus, Hebrews was written to 1 group, of 5 types:
 1. Truly saved
 2. Sincerely lost (but think they are saved)
 3. Openly close but still considering
 4. Clearly there, but openly not interested
 5. Deceptively there & potentially demonically motivated

- f. Hebrews was written the same way I’m preaching!
 - i. ...like you’re saved & need a refreshing reminder
 - ii. ...like you’re lost & need a refining clarifier
 - iii. ...like you’re close & need to refocus on Christ
 - iv. ...like you’re complacent in your corruption & need to repent
 - v. ...like you’re a wolf in sheep’s clothing... that has been spotted

- g. God wrote it to touch & talk to ALL...
 - i. Thus, Hebrews is like Romans, Cor., Thess., etc.
 - ii. Like talking to Peter (world-class stumbles)
 - iii. Like talking to Judas (world-class hypocrite)
- h. If the shoe fits, wear it!
- i. The debate is a distraction that fuels disobedience

VIDEO #3: *Trust Him Fully*

- Why is God taking the people out of Egypt?
- Why is God giving them the Promised Land?
- Is God promising to give them a fat & lazy life?
- Is God promising them the American dream?
- God save them/us to SEND them/us!
- Without faith it is impossible to please God!
- “They soon despised the land & believed not His Word”
- God wants us to be simple, faithful FOLLOWERS!
- God is looking for Gideon’s mighty missionaries!
- God wants us to bring people to Him... vs. us
- He calls us to warn, while others woo!

Hear the Worship AND the Warning of exhortation...

Accept this reminding... OR this rebuking... per God’s Word.

Whether you are:

- Drifting
- Disconnecting
- Dilly-Dallying
- Disobeying
- Denying & Defying

Hebrews & I are both calling you back to Jesus!

I'm fishing for men here today...

It's not my responsibility to "catch" but to fish!

- God does the catching
- Fishers do the fishing
- Many just tell fish stories

I don't know which part speaks to which heart,
but I do know this is God speaking to us!

VIDEO #4: *Fear of the LORD = Love for the LORD*

- Fear of the LORD leads to victorious living
- Victorious living is living out a true love for God
- Most people love self more than Savior
- Prophetic preaching is lost to political correctness
- Lost people can sit comfortably in 95% of churches
- Only 1 type of acceptable love per Jesus = obey!
- Too many think grace drowns out holiness...
- "There's going to rise up a generation w/out a fear..."

Prepare to CLOSE:

- I pray that you heed Hebrews warning & join in Hebrews' worship...
- He is calling you to come home thru Hebrews'
 - I KNOW He's calling you to come...
 - ...because He's sent me to call YOU!

Hebrews & I are talking to you the way God spoke to those He had already rescued once... because it's needed!

***** Psalm 106:10-25! *****

10*He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.*

11*The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.*

12*Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.*

13*But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.*

14*In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.*

15*So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.*

16*In the camp they grew envious of Moses
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.*

17*The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it buried the company of Abiram.*

18*Fire blazed among their followers;
a flame consumed the wicked.*

19At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.
20They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.
21They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
23So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.
24Then they despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.
25They grumbled in their tents
and did not obey the LORD.

VIDEO #5:

“Jesus Won’t Have Anything To Do With Surface Faith”

- John 8:30ff... “believers” here don’t believe... (cf. Jn.6)
- Today’s pastors would pronounce them “saved!”
- Jesus called out false converts & teachers!
- These “believers” soon try to STONE Jesus!
 - Jesus calls them liars
 - Jesus aligned with their lives vs lips
 - Plastic fruit is false fruit!

- Jesus seems almost ruthlessly loving in truth...
- Jesus warned where today's pulpit pimps woo...
- Demons are comfortable in many churches today...
- False teachers make false converts... who call false T's
- "I'm barking in the house of God tonight...."
- Sleeping shepherds partner with working wolves!

This all begs the question: "What do you want?"

What do you REALLY want?

Hebrews eloquently reminds us...

*Jesus is BEST & better than ALL other options
No matter what!*

Let us all cry out & cling to Jesus!

Let's PRAY