



Hebrews 1:1-2

Invitation to Hebrews 🔥 Sun, Sept 30th 2007

This morning, want to draw your attention to Hebrews 1

- Today...we begin new series in Hebrews
- I am nervous, excited, anxious
 - Having small sense of what is before us
- With today, being 1st message –
 - Thought of calling it an introduction. ..

Yet, today's message more of an "Invitation to Hebrews"

- Invitation to join me on journey, seek treasure
 - Difficult journey – before us deep truths
 - Before us – difficult, debated truths
 - Challenge heart and search soul
 - Stretch your understanding
 - Treasures, fullness, riches as reward
- Think it is a journey worth taking – not easy
 - Believe it will be more than worth it

Well...lets begin with several of the basic questions

I. Basic Questions

1. Who Wrote Hebrews?

- a. Honestly - Doesn't say. Some know...quite a debate
- b. One of only books in NT where author so debated
 - i) Some feel very strongly is Paul...possible
 - ii) Some feel was Apollos, Barnabas...etc
- c. Answer....we don't need to know author – Duet 29:29
 - i) If it was vital, needed to know – would say
- d. Real author – God. Notice how it begins
 - i) God...God speaking to us
 - ii) Emphasis in whole– quotes OT over 100 times (most of NT Book) –but never human authors
 - iii) Notice 3:7 – Points to author being Spirit of all Word
- e. I like it....and I want it
 - i) Want God to be heard thru me, & me forgotten

2. When was Hebrews written?

- a. Tho don't know who, have decent idea of when
- b. Heb 2:3 – 2nd Generation, Timothy is still alive 13:23
- c. Temple still around – destroyed in 70 ad

3. To Who was Hebrews written?

- a. Not specifically addressed. No place, people
- b. Guessed at a largely Jewish church –how began

4. Why was Hebrews written?

- a. Danger going back to Jewishness, rituals
 - i) Stop and consider how difficult this was
 - ii) Yet how serious it was...is
 - iii) More on this in a minute...

- b. Call them to Christ – greatness, superiority of

II. The Message of Hebrews

1. No other NT book that begins so quickly – deeply

- a. No introduction...just immediately in deep water
- b. Launches into the purpose

2. Jesus is God's Message today

- a. Looks back – at OT – sees God speaking – did
 - i) Does not say was bad or wrong
- b. Idea is sporadic...fragmentary - limited
 - i) Progressive but incomplete
 - ii) Different ways, different times
- c. Today – God is speaking, spoken by Christ
 - i) To you today – God's message is Christ

3. Jesus is God's Final Message

- a. Note the term – last days – specific, helpful
- b. Not to be too confusing – but understand that God's revelation to mankind has been unfolding
 - i) Some call them dispensations
 - ii) From Adam – to Noah (Adamic covenant)
 - iii) From Noah to Abraham (Noatic covenant)
 - iv) From Abraham to Moses (Abrahamic covenant)
 - v) From Moses to David (Moses, or Law)
 - vi) From David to Christ (Davidic Covenant)
 - vii) Christ...last days....
- c. Idea is knowing this – Not another dispensation
 - i) No Mormon revelation...not new time
- d. Jesus is God's final word on the subject...

4. Jesus is God's Full Message

- a. Note wording – spoken by Son – lit in Son**
 - i) Not thru Son, but Jesus Himself – His person
 - ii) If said was speaking “in Spanish” – understand
 - iii) He is not just the vehicle – but message
 - iv) He is better, perfect, full—all God is saying
- b. It is Jesus – all about Jesus**
 - i) He is God's all – main thing
 - ii) He is the substance – source...everything
- c. v2-3 go on to describe the fullness in Christ**
 - i) Leave that for next week
- d. Want to pull you back to the point, purpose**

III. Consider again – theme

1. Consider where Jews were at this time

- a. **Heard of Christ...fullness, message**
 - i) Some saved...some close
- b. **Yet now considering going back to Judaism**
 - i) To be a Christian – is such a cost
 - ii) Cut off from family, friends, more
 - iii) Turn back on all religious traditions
 - A. Daily sacrifices, sin sacrifices

2. Consider what they are risking

- a. **Some – risking all – not saved, turning back**
 - i) v.2:3 – if you neglect so great a salvation
 - ii) Fearful passages in Hebrews...pointing here
- b. **Some, saved – but risking fullness, rest**
 - i) 4:1 – remains a rest – more, depth, fullness
 - ii) Danger is stopping, not pressing after
- c. **Some in danger of drifting accidentally**
 - i) v2:1 – losing focus, aim, direction
 - ii) Called to fix our gaze on Christ, consider

3. Today – this is equally an issue

- a. **Some – Jews who hear, still wrestle with**
- b. **Some – considering going to Judaism**
 - i) Gentiles, but considering being Jewish
- c. **Same wrestling taking place in Islamic cultures**
 - i) In Iran, Iraq, Bahrain – people are wrestling at the threshold of Christ
 - ii) Considering staying in Islam, going back
 - iii) Cost is high – so high

- iv) Turn back on a lifetime of memories
- v) Turn away from rituals you have known
- d. Same wrestling for many in/from cults**
 - i) Jehovah's' witnesses, Mormons
 - ii) See Christ...here Him – but wrestling
 - iii) To turn from family, friends – history
- e. Same wrestling for some in Catholic Church**
 - i) Get in trouble here – not saying none saved
 - ii) But those saved here, are in spite of message
 - iii) Some see Christ...but hard to pull out
- f. For some – know exactly this wrestling**
 - i) You have and even you are dealing with
 - ii) Cost...the turning – and yet Christ before you
- g. But don't just see it out there, or back there – here**
 - i) This same issue – is for some even here
 - ii) You can be here, in church, consistent – but this same wrestling is before you
 - iii) On one hand – but a church Christian – and yet here Christ is presented...
 - iv) But to embrace it – become a Jesus Freak
 - v) Thinking of going back to just being churchy
- h. The call of this book – is don't!**
 - i) Consider again the warnings
 - A. 2:3, 4:1, 6:1, 13:13
 - ii) Greatness of the message, fullness of Christ
 - iii) He is perfect, better, all

Conclusion

Philippians 3

For all – danger is stopping pursuit of Christ

- Then and now – is a key, serious issue
- For some...it was a eternal, salvation issue
- For some – fullness issue
- Don't be satisfied with less

So again...an invitation

- This is where going, what Hebrews is about
- Call you to pursue Christ
- To forget the pass, press ahead for more