

HEBREWS OVERVIEW

Jesus is Better!

1

WRITTEN TO WHOM?

- **Jewish Christians**
 - Well acquainted with the Old Testament
 - O.T. References/Quotations
 - Jesus in the Psalms
 - Levitical Priesthood
 - Abraham/Melchizedek
 - Tabernacle
 - Animal Sacrifices
 - Moses/Patriarchs

CHRISTIANS FOR A GOOD WHILE

- **10:32-33:** “But recall the former days...”
- **5:12:** “For though by this time you ought to be teachers...”
- **6:10:** “For God is not unjust to forget your work...”
- **13:3:** “Remember the prisoners as if chained with them...”
- **12:3-4:** Consider Jesus sufferings—”You have not yet resisted to bloodshed...”

ON THE VERGE OF FALLING AWAY

- **3:12:** “Beware brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”
- **4:1:** “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest...”
- **4:11:** “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall”
- **5:11-6:6—**“...it is impossible for those who were once enlightened...if they fall away.”
- **6:10-12:**” God will not forget your works—do not become lazy.”

THOSE BEFORE ENDURED SUFFERING

- **Jesus: 5: 7-9**—”He learned obedience through His sufferings..”
- **Chapter 11**---Abel, Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, David, the Prophets, etc.
- **10:32—39**: sufferings, reproaches, spectacles,--don't draw back!
- **Chapter 12**: “Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses...”

BOTTOM LINE PROBLEM

- ***The issue was the interpretation and understanding of Judaism in light of the Ministry of Jesus!***
- ***Acts 15: 8-10:*** “...He made no distinction between us and them..”
 - A person could be right with God without living according to Judaism.
- ***Galatians 3:14:*** “the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus...”
- ***Hebrews:*** Accented the divide by presenting Christianity as better
 - Greater High Priest---PRESS On in their faith in Jesus!
 - Easy to see---2,000 year later!

THE PROBLEM

- **Pressure was not:**
 - Return to Jewish Kosher Laws—They never quit these things.
 - Not working on the Sabbath—They never quit these things.
- **Problem:**
 - Renewed persecution even from their Jewish brethren
 - Continued social rejection
 - Load was too heavy to carry
 - They were being loaded down spiritually
 - Therefore: Tempted to QUIT!

WEARING DOWN SPIRITUALLY

■ **Their Problem:**

- Social Rejection
- Renewed Persecution
- Felt marginalized
- Lines were being drawn by society
- **Ancients:** Importance of Identity, Belonging to established group.
- Tempted to Quit !!

■ **Feelings:**

- Frustrated
- Angry
- Bitter

FALLING AWAY PROCESS

- *Usually not a single incident or thing*
- **Process:** Often gradually (Several things)
 - Attendance ↓
 - Bible Study ↓
 - Prayer ↓
 - Association with Christians ↓
- The Burden is Too Heavy to Bear—Quit!

LESSONS FOR US

- **1. Jesus is Better.**
- **2. We all have problems.**
- **3. People/Friends/Christians can disappoint you.**
- **4. Everyone gets discouraged at times.**
- **5. Persecutions will come.**
- **6. Count the Cost.**
- **7. Don't Quit!**