

BOOK OF HEBREWS: INTRODUCTION

HEBREWS

INTRODUCTION:

1. In this unique time of COVID-19, we are facing some very difficult circumstances that can challenge our faith.
2. The Book of Hebrews was written to address the hardships of those who were struggling to remain faithful.
3. To introduce this book, there are three questions we must ask.

I. WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF HEBREWS?

- A. Simple Answer: We don't know.
- B. However, it was probably not written by Paul.
 1. **2 THESSALONIANS 3.17:** *"The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write."*
 2. Paul always signed his epistles. (Rom. 16.22; 1.1)
 3. Paul always began and end all his epistles with a word of grace. (Eph. 1.1,2; 6.24)

II. WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE?

- A. The book of Hebrews was written to a Jewish audience.
 1. There were frequent quotes from Old Testament passages. (Heb. 1.5; Rom. 3.2; 2.14)
 2. There were frequent references to Old Testament history. (Heb. 3,9,12)
 3. There were frequent reference to Old Testament characters. (Heb. 11)
- B. The book of Hebrews was written to a Jewish audience who had been converted to Christ but who were struggling.
 1. Some were drifting. (Heb. 2.1)
 2. Some were departing. (Heb. 3.12)
 3. Some were disobeying. (Heb. 3.18)
 4. Some were disengaging. (Heb. 5.12)

III. WHY WAS THE BOOK OF HEBREWS WRITTEN?

- A. Hebrews was written to encourage. (Heb. 13.22)
- B. Two observations to make when finding the purpose.
 1. The thesis statement. (Heb. 8.1,2)
 2. The key words. (Heb. 3.6; 4.14; 6.18; 10.23)

CONCLUSION: The book of Hebrews was written to help those who are struggling by reminding us that Jesus is there for us.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

October 18, 2020

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE PROMISE OF MARRIAGE

Standing before family, friends, and God, husbands and wives have promised to give their lives to each other no matter what the circumstance. The promise we make is not conditioned on our spouse remaining healthy, nor is it contingent on our spouse striking it rich. We promise to keep our spouse "for better for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer." This is a promise that is for life as we pledge "till death do us part."

God expects us to keep our promises. The Jews asked Jesus, *"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason"* (Matt. 19.3)? Jesus refers back to the beginning when God first instituted marriage (Matt. 19.4,5). He then says this in verse 6: *"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."* Jesus teaches that when we marry, it is God who joins us together. We are making a promise to our spouse and to God, and we do not have the right to arbitrarily break our promise in divorce.

In our culture, marriage is not taken seriously as divorce is as easy as it has ever been. However, our culture does not change the fact that marriage is an institution put in place by God, and God still expects us to keep our vows made to our spouse and to Him. How can we better keep our marriage vows? By treating our spouse the way God taught us in the Bible. (Eph. 5.22-32).

STUDY YOUR BIBLE 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are a number of ways that you can read your Bible.
 - a) You can read your Bible pragmatically.
 - b) You can read your Bible procedurally.
 - c) You can take a problem-solving approach to reading.
2. To go deeper into the text, you need to study. (cf. Acts 14.12)

I. LOOK AT THE OVERALL CONTEXT

- A. To study your Bible properly, you need to know where you are in the Bible. (2 Tim. 2.15)
- B. Consider Acts 2.38 as an example. (Acts 1.3,8)

II. ASK THREE QUESTIONS

- A. To understand the message of the passage you are studying, there are three questions that must be answered.
 1. Who wrote the book. (James 1.1; 1 Peter 1.1)
 2. To whom was it written? (James 1.1; 1 Peter 1.1)
 3. Why was the book written? (Rom. 1.17)
- B. Consider Acts 2.38 as an example. (Acts 1.1)

III. LOOK AT THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

- A. To understand the immediate context, focus on two things.
 1. Look at the paragraphs. (2 Tim. 4.1,2)
 2. Look for connecting words. (2 Tim. 4.1)
- B. Consider Acts 2.38 as an example. (Acts 2.36-38)

IV. MAKE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- A. Two questions to ask concerning application.
 1. What am I to believe? (2 Tim. 4.2)
 2. How am I to behave? (2 Tim. 4.2)
- B. Consider Acts 2.38 as an example.

V. PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

- A. Take all that you have learned from the previous steps and summarize it in one or two succinct sentences.
- B. Consider Acts 2.38 as an example: If one hears the gospel, believes in Jesus, repents, and is baptized, he will be saved.

CONCLUSION: Have you made a personal application to the gospel?

THE ONE INGREDIENT YOUR MARRIAGE MAY BE MISSING

Do you know what the most difficult year is of marriage? It is the current one. Every marriage may have its unique challenges, but the underlying problem...and solution is the same. So often the struggles of marriage have more to do with a lack of communication than anything else. Yet even good communication cannot inoculate a marriage from conflict. The God who instituted marriage offers some insight to the one ingredient your marriage may be missing.

How interesting that in those passages that deal with marriage, a single attitude and action is found repeatedly. Peter tells wives to “*be submissive to your own husbands*” (1 Pet. 3.1). He provides an example is Sarah’s relationship to Abraham, “*calling him lord*” (1 Pet. 3.6). To husbands, Peter wrote that they are to give “*honor to the wife*” (1 Pet. 3.7). To both husbands and wives, Peter challenges them to show one another respect. One of the most important ingredients that may be lacking in many marriages is respect.

Gary Smalley, founder of the Smalley Relationship Center, once described respect by handing a genuine Picasso painting to his audience to pass around. As the painting went from one hand to the other, it was greeted with gasps and wonderment. Then he made this point: When you see your spouse, treat him/her like they have a Picasso painting on their forehead. Be excited to see them. Be in awe of the chance to spend time with them. Be fascinated with everything they have to say. Show them a great deal of respect.

When there is conflict in the relationship, do you respect your spouse enough to genuinely listen to his/her side of the issue? Do you respect your spouse enough to pay attention to his/her needs and go out of the way to satisfy them? Do you respect your spouse enough not to criticize or correct them in public, but privately and gently?

The apostle Paul wrote, “*Render therefore to all their due...honor to whom honor. Owe no one anything but to love one another*” (Rom. 13.7,8). In a troubled marriage, respect is often the first thing to go. I am never to withhold respect to someone who deserves it and thus owe it to them. Who is more deserving of my respect than the one whom I married and promised to honor for the rest of my life?

CLP