

# THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

- True or False: Hebrews is a letter of exhortation.
  - True. 13:22
  - Exhortation: “a calling to one’s side”; an appeal, entreaty, encouragement, consolation and comfort; an urging to pursue a certain course of conduct; can include warnings
- Why was this letter written?
  - This letter was written to urge Hebrew brethren in Christ to persevere *in Christ* and to not fall back into Judaism
  - In order to do that, warnings and encouragement are given interspersed with argumentation to show why – to demonstrate the superiority of Christ

# HEBREWS: “BETTER”

1. The Better Messenger: The Son
2. The Better Apostle
3. The Better High Priest
4. The Better Covenant
5. The Better Sacrifice in the Better Tabernacle
6. The Better Way: Faith

## From chapter 3:

- Disobedience comes through a hardening of the heart
  - The heart is the place where we
    - Think and believe (the intellect)
    - Decide and purpose (the will)
    - Are convicted (Acts 2:37), Believe (Romans 10:10) and Obey (Romans 6:17)
  - Proverbs 14:23

## From chapter 3:

- It is clear for the second time in Hebrews (first time, 2:1-4) that Christians can fall away from God
  - 3:12-14
    - “departing from the living God”
    - “...if....hold....to the end”
  - Falling away comes from an unbelieving heart
    - An unbelieving heart is evil
    - It happens by a hardening process through the deceitfulness of sin
- Beware and exhort one another daily while it is called “today” – while there is opportunity

1. 1. We must \_\_\_\_\_ lest we come short of entering the rest provided by God.

fear

2. What is that rest?

heaven

3. The word of God did not profit those of Israel who fell in the wilderness because it was not mixed or united with \_\_\_\_\_.

faith

4. Israel's example shows us that it is not enough to just hear the gospel; we must \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 16:16) and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel (Acts 6:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). "But be \_\_\_\_\_ of the word, and not \_\_\_\_\_ only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

Israel's example shows us that it is not enough to just hear the gospel; we must believe (Mark 16:16) and obey the gospel (Acts 6:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

## **4:11-13 MUST BE DILIGENT TO ENTER THE REST. THE WORD OF GOD WILL REVEAL OUR CONDITION**

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

{12} For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

{13} And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

## 4:14-16 OUR COMPASSIONATE HIGH PRIEST

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

{15} For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

{16} Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”



## 5:1-4 THE OFFICE OF HIGH PRIEST – DESIGN & QUALIFICATIONS

“For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

{2} He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

{3} Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

{4} And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.”