



PRESSING ON TO MATURITY

Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity -Hebrews 6:1

HEBREWS SURVEY

Natural Divisions:

- **After chapter 1** - clear shift from the supremacy of Christ to the danger of drifting away
- **Chapter 5-7** - extended section on Jesus as high priest
- **Chapter 11** - the "Faith Hall of Fame" stand alone chapter
- **Chapter 12** - transition to endurance and discipline

HEBREWS SURVEY

Highlight Key Phrases:

- **That capture Jesus' supremacy:** "radiance of God's glory", "upholds all things by his word", "made purification for sins"
- **Warning against drifting or falling away:** "how shall we escape?", "harden not your hearts", "fallen away...to renew them again"
- **Focus on Jesus as high priest, perfect sacrifice:** "sympathetic high priest", "offered up prayers and supplications", "once for all sacrifice"

HEBREWS SURVEY

Key Words:

- **Better/superior** (used 13 x's to describe Christ/new covenant)
- **Perfect/perfection** (used 10 x's to describe Christ's sacrifice)
- **Promise/rest** (referring to God's promised rest in Christ)
- **Heavenly/eternal** (defines Christ's divine nature and ministry)

HEBREWS SURVEY

Key Verses:

- "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."
(Hebrews 1:1-2)
- "The Son is **the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being**, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."
(Hebrews 1:3)

HEBREWS SURVEY

Key Verses:

- "Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix your thoughts on Jesus,** whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest." (Hebrews 3:1)
- "Let us then **approach God's throne of grace with confidence,** so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

HEBREWS SURVEY

Key Verses:

- "Therefore let us **move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity,** not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God." (Hebrews 6:1)
- "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so **worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.**" (Hebrews 12:28)

HEBREWS SURVEY

Key Message:

The book of Hebrews encourages endurance in the Christian faith by expounding on Christ's surpassing supremacy and high priestly work. Jesus has accomplished salvation, enabling us to draw near to God and persevere through trials by clinging to God's sufficient grace. The book urges us to anchor our devotion upon Christ alone as we progress into deeper maturity and faithful endurance.

HEBREWS SURVEY

Section Main Themes:

The first seven chapters speaks to what we have:

- **1:1-14** - Christ is superior to the prophets and angels
- **2:1-4** - Warning to pay careful attention to the great salvation in Christ
- **2:5-18** - Christ became like us to make propitiation for sins as merciful high priest
- **3:1-6** - Christ is faithful as Son over God's house unlike Moses
- **3:7-4:13** - Warning against hardening your heart and failing to enter God's rest through faith

HEBREWS SURVEY

Section Main Themes:

The first seven chapters speaks to what we have:

- **4:14-5:10** - Christ as sympathetic high priest enables us to draw near to God and find grace
- **5:11-6:20** - Warning against stagnation - must press on toward spiritual maturity
- **7:1-28** - Christ as eternal high priest mediates a better covenant based on his indestructible life

HEBREWS SURVEY

Section Main Themes:

These chapters show we have a great high priest:

- **8:1-13** - Christ mediates a superior covenant enacted on better promises
- **9:1-12** - Christ entered heaven securing eternal redemption through his blood
- **9:13-10:18** - Christ offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to cleanse our consciences

HEBREWS SURVEY

Section Main Themes:

What **we must do** since we have these things:

- ***10:19-39*** - We must hold fast to the hope we profess and spur each other on
- ***11:1-12:2*** - We must run with perseverance fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer of faith
- ***12:3-29*** - We must endure hardship as discipline from the Father of our spirits
- ***13:1-25*** - We must excel in acts of love and praise toward God and doing good

HEBREWS SURVEY

Warning Sections:

- **2:1-4** - Warning to pay more careful attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away
- **3:7-4:13** - Warning about hardening our hearts and failing to enter God's rest through unbelief
- **5:11-6:20** - Warning against falling away from the faith and failing to reach maturity
- **10:19-39** - Warning against willful sin and shrinking back from Christ, which leads to destruction
- **12:3-29** - Warning to endure hardship as discipline and not lose heart or become bitter

HEBREWS SURVEY

What is the purpose of? How should we read it?

- Hebrews 13:22 gives insight into the purpose and intended reading of this book. It calls the book a "*word of exhortation*", meaning it is intended to encourage and spur the faith.

Purpose: The purpose is to exhort and encourage its audience to persevere in following Jesus amid hardship and temptation to turn away.

How to Read: Read as a message to believers under immense pressure and wavering in their commitment to Jesus. Read as God's living voice of encouragement for every generation of struggling, imperfect believers to stay faithful to Jesus.