

**The Promise: In Remembrance**  
Hebrews Recap  
Sunday, June 24, 2012

**INTRODUCTION:**

• **Hebrews 4:12-16**

**I. Background**

A. Author

1. The Possibilities
2. The Fact

B. Occasion

1. Judaizers are spreading their distorted message of Christ PLUS adherence to the Law
2. Affords the writer the opportunity to bolster confidence in the Gospel with biblical Christology

C. Audience

1. Appears to be written to predominantly Jewish believers
2. John MacArthur divides the audience into 3 main groups that I find useful
  - a) Hebrew believers (the main audience for the writer)
  - b) Hebrew unbelievers who were intellectually convinced
  - c) Hebrew unbelievers who were intellectually unconvinced

**II. Purpose**

A. To Exalt Christ

1. The book is written to exalt Christ not only in principle, but actually in the minds and hearts of every Hebrew reader.
2. This helps us see clearly that the message of the supremacy of Christ as the satisfaction of His people is the message for the believer, non-believing convinced, and non-believing unconvinced.

B. To Warn Against the Apostasy of Judaism

1. Throughout the book, there are exhortations in light of who Christ is and what He's done, NOT to fall away from the faith.
2. We would not take this to mean that losing salvation is possible.
3. Presents a warning for us today NOT to rely on previous experiences for assurance, rather our current trust in Christ and His finished work. Good fruit will bear out.

C. To Help the Church Persevere in the Faith

1. There us an understated tone of encouragement to persevere throughout the book that becomes quite central by the last 2 1/2 chapters.
2. With false teachers pressing in and seeing supposed brothers / sisters "fall away" there would be a great deal of discouragement.

**III. Structure**

\* Took helps from George Guthrie, Peter O'Brien, and David Chapman (contr. for ESV Study Bible)

A. Jesus is Supreme (**Heb.1:1-4:13**)

1. Superior (1:1-4)
2. Superior to angels (1:5-2:18)

3. Superior to Moses (3:1-4:13)

help in interpreting the book, keeping the individual from mere intellectual assent, and actually benefitting the local church

B. Jesus is Supreme as the Promise of God (**Heb. 4:14-10:18**)

1. Superior Priest (4:14-7:28)
2. Superior Covenant (8:1-13)
3. Superior Sacrifice (9:1-10:18)

D. Source: O'Brien and Guthrie take special note of this pattern in Hebrews and it was a common approach by one my heroes, Jonathan Edwards, in preaching particularly narrative or theologically rich texts

C. Jesus is Supreme among His People (**Heb. 10:19-13:25**)

1. Supreme in confidence (10:19-11:40)
2. Supreme in endurance (12:1-29)
3. Supreme in community (13:1-25)

**APPLICATION:**

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

- A. Believer, press on looking to Jesus, growing in knowledge and faith so that you do not lose hope in practice.
- B. Unbeliever who is intellectually convinced, you must respond to the truth you ascend to believe and follow Christ, turning from the Law and self as righteous, trusting only in Him as all-satisfying.
- C. Unbeliever who is not convinced, you must see that Christ is the fulfillment of all of God's promises and only those who believe and trust in Him will have eternal life.

**IV. Approach**

A. Exposition

1. This is the explanation of the text and its meaning in light of Jesus Christ
2. This is particularly noticeable at the beginning of each of our 3 main sections

B. Exhortation

1. Upon explanation, appeals and warnings are made in light of the truth of who Christ is and what He's done
2. This is impassioned

C. Application & Purpose

1. While response is implicit throughout, it is explicitly called for after the exhortations
2. This isn't perfect in its arrangement everywhere in the book, but it's a strong enough pattern to