

The Superiority of Jesus Christ: The Epistle to the Hebrews

The more we appreciate the absolute supremacy, incomparable & sufficiency of Jesus Christ, the more will we persevere and live by faith in our daily activities; faithfully trusting God results in eternal rewards (12:28)

1:1-4; 9:11-14

A.D. 65-9?

I. Theological Basis for Jesus Christ's Preeminence: 1:1-10:18

A. Christ is Superior to the Prophets: 1:1-4

God's Revelation to the Prophets (1:1); God's revelation in "Son" (1:2-4)

B. Christ is Superior to the Angels: 1:5-2:18

Demonstrated from the Old Testament (1:5-14)

1st Warning: 2:1-4: Don't Drift Away from the Truth!

Demonstrated by His Humanity (2:5-18)

Exaltation above the angels, vv. 5-9; Suffering Necessary for Supremacy in order to identify with humanity; vv. 10-13, destroy the devil & deliver saints; vv. 14-16; become a merciful and faithful high priest; vv. 17-18.

C. Christ is Superior to Moses: 3:1-4:13

Both were faithful (3:1-2); Builder vs. Building (3:3-4); Servant vs. Son (3:5-6a)

2nd Warning: 3:6b-4:13: Don't Disbelieve!

Israel in the wilderness, vv. 6b-11; warning against unbelief, vs.12-4:2; warning against not entering God's rest, vv. 3-13 (necessity of faith, 4:3-11 & penetration of God's Word, 4:12-13)

D. Christ is Superior to Aaron: 4:14-7:28

Our Compassionate High Priest, 4:14-16; Priesthood of Aaron, 5:1-5; Priesthood of Christ, 5:6-10

3rd Warning: 5:11-6:8: Don't Degenerate!

rebuke for immaturity, vv. 11-14; encouragement toward maturity; 6:1-3, warning against apostasy, 6:4-8

Reminder of the Promises of God, 6:9-20); Priesthood of Melchizedek, 7:1-28;

E. Christ's Ministry is Superior to the Old Covenant Ministry: 8:1-10:18

Introduction, 8:1-6; Better Covenant, 8:7-13 (inadequacy of the Old Covenant, vv. 7-9 vs. adequacy of the New Covenant, 8:10-13); Better Sanctuary, 9:1-12; Better Sacrifice, 9:13-10:18 (necessity of shed blood, vv. 13--22; purification of the Heavenly Sanctuary, 9:23-28; permanance of the Sacrifice, 10:1-18 (inadequacy of Levitical Sacrifices, vv. 1-9 vs. adequacy of Christ's sacrifice, vv. 10-18).

II. Practical Implications of Christ's Preeminence: 10:19-13:17

A. Description of the Faith: 10:19-25:

Draw Near in Faith (10:19-22); Hold Fast in Hope (10:23)
Stir Up One Another in Love (20:24-25)

4th Warning: 10:26-31: Don't Willfully Sin!

B. Endure Persecution: 10:32-39

C. Examples of the life of Faith: 11:1-40:

Introduction (11:1-3) ; Faith from Abel to Noah (11:4-7)
The Faith of the Patriarchs (11:8-22) ; The Faith of Moses (11:23-29) ; Faith in Israel after Moses (11:30-40)

D. Endure Discipline: 12:1-29

Supreme Example of Christ (12:1-4); Discipline as Evidence of Sonship (12:5-11) ; Discipline Necessary for Sanctification (12:12-17)

5th Warning: 12:14-29 Don't be Unresponsive!

E. Exhortation for Christian Living: 13:1-17:

Love for believers (13:1-6); Respect for Leaders (13:7-17)

III. Concluding Instructions:

13:18-25:

request for prayer, vv. 18-19; prayer for readers, vv. 20-21;
final exhortation, vs. 22; Timothy's Release, vs. 23;
Final Greetings and Benediction, vv. 24-25.

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