

BIG

Hebrews #1 - Jesus is Better

Prairie Rose EMC, Oct. 4, 2020

Pastor Mike

The book of Hebrews was written to weary Christians who were thinking about abandoning Jesus for their old life. The book was written to inspire perseverance.

“The preacher is not preaching into a vacuum, he's addressing a real and urgent pastoral problem. One that seems astonishingly contemporary. His congregation is exhausted, they're tired, tired of serving the world, tired of worship, tired of Christian education, tired of being peculiar, and whispered about in society. Tired of the spiritual struggle, tired of trying to keep their prayer life going, tired even of Jesus. Their hands droop, and their knees are weak. Attendance is down at the church and they're losing confidence. The threat to this congregation is not that they're charging off in the wrong direction, they don't have enough energy to charge off anywhere. The threat here is that worn down and worn out, they will drop their end of the rope, and simply drift away tired of walking the walk. Many of them are considering taking a walk leaving the community, and falling away from the faith”.

Tom Long

How to persevere according to Hebrews:

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

The main idea from Hebrews 1 is that Jesus is God's superior self-revelation. He is greater than the prophets and the angels, and he is big enough for us to trust in him.

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ 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. ⁴ So he became as

much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

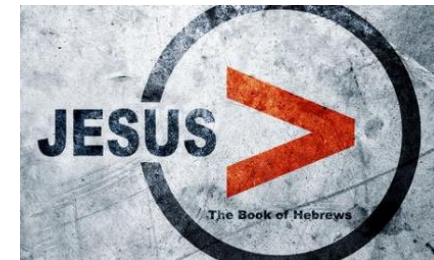
Hebrews 1:1-4

Is your Jesus Big Enough?

Hebrews 1 emphasizes three things about Jesus.

- His unique authority
- His unique identity
- His unique power

This text challenges us to be careful about making Jesus too small. It is also a warning about allowing anyone or anything else to become bigger than Jesus.



Understanding the Structure of Hebrews:

Hebrews is a comparative study from beginning to end showing us over and over that Jesus is better.

1) Jesus is a Better Message and Messenger (1-4)

- a) Better than the Prophets (1:1-3)
- b) Better than the Angels (1:4-2:18)
- c) Better than Moses (3:1-19)
- d) Better than Joshua (4:1-13)

2) Jesus is a Better Sacrifice and High Priest (5-10)

- a) Better than the earthly High Priests (4:14-7:28)
- b) Mediates a better covenant in a better sanctuary with a better sacrifice (8:1-10:18)

3) Jesus Demands Better Faith (11-13)

- a) A Call to Faith (10:19-25)
- b) Examples of Faith (11-12:3)
- c) A Call for a Disciplined Faith (12:4-29)
- d) Faith in action (13)