

SOME SUPERIORS FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

The book of Hebrews was probably written by the apostle Paul to the Jewish Christians in the city of Jerusalem and in the area surrounding Jerusalem. The recipients of the book of Hebrews were struggling with a problem. The temple was still standing in the city of Jerusalem, and the grandeur of the temple, along with other things, was tempting these Christians to return to Judaism. Paul wrote to these Christians to show the superiority of Christ and the Christian system to the Law of Moses. Paul shows the Hebrew Christians that they have a superior spokesman, a superior sacrifice, and a superior system.

SUPERIOR SPOKESMAN

Paul shows the superiority of Christ as a spokesman. Christ is superior to prophets (Heb. 1:1-3), angels (Heb. 1:4-2:18), Moses (Heb. 3), and Joshua (Heb. 4). Christ is superior to the prophets because He is a prophet - "hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son," a priest - "when he had by himself purged our sins," and a king - "sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:1-3). The angels were to worship Christ (Heb. 1:6), and the one who is worshipped is superior to the worshipper. Moses was a servant in the house of God (Heb. 3:5; Num. 12:7), but Christ was a Son over His own house (Heb. 3:6). Christ is God, eternal (John 1:1-3), and active in creation (Heb. 1:2). Therefore, Christ created the system in which Moses was a servant. The builder, or creator, is superior to the building, or the creation. Joshua led the people to an earthly rest in an earthly promised land, but Christ will lead those who obey Him to a heavenly rest in a heavenly promised land (Heb. 4:8-9).

SUPERIOR SACRIFICE

Not only did Paul show the Christians in and around Jerusalem that they had a superior spokesman but they also had a superior sacrifice. The superior sacrifice was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. The sacrifice of Christ is superior because of **His sinlessness** and because of **its singleness**. Christ "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). The priests who offered sacrifices under the Law of Moses had to first offer for themselves and then for the sins of the people (Heb. 5:3), but this was not the case with Christ. He did not need to offer for Himself, but He simply offered Himself for all mankind (John 3:16). Christ was the perfect sacrifice to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The sacrifices offered under the Law of Moses were offered every year because they could not take away sins. The offerings had to be made year after year after year, but they still could not take away the sins of the people. Christ did not have to offer Himself year after year. His sacrifice was a one time sacrifice (Heb. 9:28; 10:14).

SUPERIOR SYSTEM

Paul showed the Hebrew Christians that they had a superior spokesman, a superior sacrifice, and even a superior system. In Hebrews chapter 8, Paul contrasts the two systems. The first covenant was not faultless because it could not take away sins (Heb. 8:7). However, the first covenant was perfect for the purpose for which it was intended. It was a schoolmaster to bring them to Christ (Gal. 3:19-25). The new covenant was superior because it would bring a more intimate knowledge of God. The new law would not be written on stone but in the minds of the people (Heb. 8:10). Under the old covenant, people were born into the covenant and then taught, but this would not be the case with the new covenant (Heb. 8:11). People must be taught before they can enter into the new covenant (John 6:44, 45). Under the old covenant the sins of the people were remembered every year, but under the new covenant when the sins were remitted they were done away never to be brought up again (Heb. 8:12). May we remember when we are tempted to return to the world that we have some superiors as Christians: a superior spokesman, a superior sacrifice, and a superior system.

Chance

Remember in Prayer

Glenn Terry is doing some better. He is at the Adams House.

Charles Patton (Dan Kilgore's brother in law) is now recovering from open heart surgery at Princeton.

Donna Payne (Marsha Simmons sister in law) is undergoing tests this week.

Helen Reinhardt (Bob Daniel's sister) had surgery on Thursday.

Eugenia Barker (Bob Daniel's sister) is continuing to take radiation and chemo.

Long Term Needs

David Burford, Sara Morgan, Ramona Yeilding

Franklin Camp Scholarship Fund

In Memory of
Carolyn Caldwell
by

Eulan & Robbie McCaleb

In Memory of
Jimmy Russell
by

Paul & Alberta McCaleb
Beula Kerlin

Visitation Team Meeting

Visitation Team #4 which includes their Captain, **Stentsen & Erin Ellenburg** and members: **Eulan & Robbie McCaleb, Paul, Alberta, & Hunter McCaleb, Alan, Michelle & Sarah McCaleb, Nathan & Crystal Harr, Marcelle Yeilding, Becky & Caleb Kersh, Tera & Robby Harden, Brian & Ivy Wolfe, Gloria Wolfe, Pat Graham, Linda Graham, Nick & Jennifer Rouse, Billy & Betty Cash, Chad & Teale Yeilding, Mark & Shanna Griffin** and **Finley Tuggle** will meet Sunday after the morning service. Visitors will be invited as an honored guest to share this meal with Team #4. This is a great opportunity to work in God's Kingdom. Continue to make your plans to prepare food and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Mark Your Calendar/2009

Mar. 19 -- Housewarming for **Chance**

Mar. 21 -- K-5 Devo / 6-College Age Devo

Mar. 26 -- Keenager's trip to George Washington Museum in Columbiana

Apr. 10-11 -- Lads/Leaders Nashville

Apr. 17-18 -- Prom Alternative

Apr. 25 -- Ladies' Day with
Cindy Colley

May 8-9 -- Men's Retreat

June 7-10 -- Gospel Meeting: **Ken Tyler**

July 5-10 -- Ronnie's week @ICYC

July 26-29 -- VBS

Oct. 11-14 -- Gospel Meeting:

Curtis A. Cates

Oct. 17 -- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill

Dec. 31 -- New Year's Eve Singing

Youth Devos

We will have a **K-5th grade Youth Devo** on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall hosted by **Janice Key**. Girls bring desserts and boys bring chips and drinks.

Also, the 6th thru College Age Devotional on Saturday, March 21@ at 7:30 PM @ Chance's house. Girls bring desserts and boys bring chips and drinks.

Please make plans to attend!

Keenagers, your next trip is to *George Washington Museum* in Columbiana on Thursday, March 26, 2009. The bus will leave at 8:00 AM with a biscuit on the way. We will eat lunch at the Golden Corral. The cost will be \$3.00. See the sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.

LAD/LEADERS

Lads/Leaders, your hotel money is due by March 29. Please give your check to **Ray or Jane Skelton**.

