

## Lesson 1: Hebrews Overview & Chapter 1:1-3

### Introduction

I. Hebrews is an amazing book of the Bible. Its general message is clear.

A. There is a difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and really \_\_\_\_\_.

B. What did Jesus often say concerning hearing (see **Mark 4:23; Luke 8:8**)?

1. In this letter, what does the writer say in **Hebrews 3:7-8**?

2. The question is...\_\_\_\_\_?

### Overview

II. In establishing the framework for the study of Hebrews, we will be considering:

- The author
- The recipients
- When this letter was written
- Why was it written (purpose)
- What is the main theme
- 3 important key words in the letter

III. We will study this book through the lens of the following 5 characteristics: It is a book of:

- evaluation
- exhortation
- examination
- expectation
- exaltation

**It is a book (letter) of evaluation.**

A. We have to ask the question, how so? We can answer this question by looking at 3 key words!

1. Key word: **better** (Mark in a distinct way on your worksheets. Remember, key words lead to key themes.)

Hebrews 1:4

Hebrews 7:19

Hebrews 8:6

2. Key word: **perfect**  
Perfect means

This perfection could not be accomplished by:

Hebrews 7:11

Hebrews 7:19

Hebrews 10:1

Hebrews 10:14 (contrast)

So, what is the writer contrasting?

3. Key word: **eternal/forever**

Hebrews 5:9

Hebrews 9:12

Hebrews 9:15

Hebrews 1:8

Hebrews 5:6 (6:20; 7:17, 21)

Hebrews 13:8

B. When you combine these three repeated key words, you discover that... Jesus Christ and the Christian life He gives us... are \_\_\_\_\_ because these blessings are \_\_\_\_\_... and they give us a \_\_\_\_\_ standing before God.

C. So, back to the fact that this is a book of *evaluation*, we must ask 2 questions. Why did the writer ask his readers to *evaluate* their faith... in light of what Jesus did and had to offer them? **Who were those he was writing to?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

D. Why would they go back, or be tempted to go back. Why might you if you were in their sandals?

E. He doesn't want them to go back, so he exhorts them in Hebrews 6:1-2.

### **It (Hebrews) is a book of exhortation!**

A. Write out Hebrews 13:22

B. Exhortation means \_\_\_\_\_.

C. The same Greek word is translated with a different English word.

1. Rom. 15:4
2. 2 Cor. 1:5-7 (also 7:7)

D. The epistle is not written to frighten believers!  
E. At this point, those of you who have read Hebrews, might ask... well, what about the 5 terrible warnings found in Hebrews.

1. Their purpose:

2. How does the letter to Hebrews open and close?

Hebrews 1:1-2

Hebrews 12:25

3. In other words, the theme of Hebrews seems to be:

F. A list of the 5 warnings (problem passages)... that are really passages that encourage us to \_\_\_\_\_.

Drifting from the Word... 2:1-4. (Neglect)

Doubting the Word... 3:7-4:13. (Hard heart)

Dullness toward the Word... 5:11-6:20 (Sluggishness)

Despising the Word... 10:26-39 (Willfulness)

Defying the Word... 12:14-29 (Refusing to hear)

Notes:

G. What have we seen so far?

**It is a book of examination!**

A. What am I really trusting? Am I trusting the Word of God? Or am I trusting the things of the world?

B. Historical setting and how it relates to today.

C. Notes:

**It is a book of expectation.**

A. We will see that the focus in this book is on the future.

Hebrews 2:5

Hebrews 1:2

Hebrews 9:15

Hebrews 11:10-16, 26

Hebrews 11:13

B. Simply put... the emphasis of this letter:

**It is a book of exaltation.**

A. This epistle to the Hebrews exalts the person and the work of our Lord Jesus Christ! This exaltation begins in the first 3 verses of the book... and this high and holy theme is maintained throughout the entire letter.