

Hebrews: Radiance and Shadows
Lesson #1: The Translator
Hebrews 1:1-2

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1. Why is it called “Hebrews”?

- Written to Jewish believers in Jesus.
- A specific letter to a local church. (13:19, 23)

2. Who was the author?

- Paul? No - see 2:3; Gal 1:11-12; 1 Cor 15:8
- A female author? No: see 11:32 (“tell” = masc.)
- Luke, Barnabas, Timothy, Jude?
 - No internal or external evidence: just a guess.
- What do we know?
 - An excellent theologian, teacher and O.T. scholar.
 - Well versed in Hellenistic Judaism (school of Philo).
 - Great rhetorical and literary skill; well-educated.
 - Who does this fit? Apollos (See Acts 18:24,)
 - What is the focus of his teaching? Jesus!

3. Why was Hebrews written? A church was in crisis.

- Christians were disheartened. (5:11; 6:12)
- Christians were becoming lazy. (6:12)
- Christians had left the church. (10:25)
- Christians were being persecuted. (10:32-34)
- Christians were losing confidence. (10:35)
- Christians were weary of the battle. (12:1-4)
- Christians were having problems with church leadership. (13:17-18)
- Christians were having problems with sexual purity or greed. (13:4-5)

4. What did the church in crisis need most?

- To stop focusing on itself and its problems.
- To focus on Jesus.
 - ⇒ When we discover who Jesus is and who we are in Jesus, all of our problems and issues are solved.
 - He is the Great Translator
- To not give up during tough times. (Heb 12:1-3)