

## Sermon Notes

### *There Is No Reason to Turn Back!* *An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews*

#01 – “Introduction and Exposition of Hebrews 1:1-2”

#### I. Introduction

- A. Most people find this book hard to understand.
  - 1. This is because of its use of the Old Testament.
- B. Authorship
  - 1. No salutary greeting
  - 2. Could be Paul – Eastern Church view
    - a. Historical background
    - b. Calvin
    - c. Grammar is not Pauline.
  - 3. Could be Barnabas – Western Church view
    - a. Tertullian supported this view (220 AD) but others supported Luke.
  - 4. Apollos – a worthy candidate and not discussed much in church history.
    - a. He was a Jew and grounded in the Old Testament.
    - b. Alexandrian or Hellenistic Jew
    - c. Noted as a powerful speaker
    - d. Key text – Acts 18:24-28
    - e. Apollos would have been thoroughly immersed in Platonism, Stoicism and the work of Philo
      - 1. Refuted Philo’s view of time – Heb. 10:10-12; 13:8
      - 2. Stoicism – Heb. 2:18
    - f. Greater than priesthood of Aaron – Heb. 5:1-10; 7:26-28
    - g. Greater than angels – Heb. 1:4; 2:5-8
    - h. Greater than Moses – Heb. 3:5-6
    - i. Greater than Philo’s LOGOS -- Heb. 12:1-2
- C. Occasion and dating
  - 1. Original readers read Greek and used the LXX.
  - 2. Gospel reported to them from an apostle – Heb. 2:3
  - 3. Faced persecution – Heb. 10:32-34

- 4. Persecution and expulsion from Judaism – Heb. 13:12-13
- 5. Danger of falling away – Heb. 2:14-18
- 6. Greeting from those of Italy – Heb. 13:24
  - a. In all they were Jewish Christians who were Hellenized and lived outside of Palestine.

#### D. Theme and Structure

- 1. Clear theme – “The Supremacy of Christ.”
- 2. Structure
  - Christ superior to the prophets – 1:1-3
  - Christ superior to angels – 1:4-2:18
  - Christ superior to Moses – 3:1-4:13
  - Christ superior to Aaron – 4:4-10:18
  - Christ superior as a new way of living – 10:19-12:29
  - Concluding remarks – 13:1-25

#### E. Date

- 1. Definitely first century
  - a. Clement of Rome
  - b. Repeated use of present tense when speaking of Levitical priesthood
  - c. Sacrificial system in use
  - d. Book mentions Timothy
  - e. Temple still in existence
  - f. Best – AD 64-70

#### II. Exposition

##### A. Hebrews 1:1-2

- 1. God spoke – needed in today’s relativistic age.
- 2. Consider Job’s quote – Job 11:7
  - a. Phillips
- 3. The Bible about itself – 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16
- 4. Divine authority listed when quoting the Old Testament
  - a. Hebrews 2:12 citing Psalm 22:22
  - b. Hebrews 3:7-11 quoting Psalm 95
- 5. James Boice

##### B. “In Son”

- 1. Peculiar Greek usage about “the Son”
- 2. Calvin