

## **Christ Is All. Hebrews Recap**

### **Introduction**

If my count is correct, we have explored the letter to the Hebrews through 38 sermons—all with this central theme: Unshaken: Hold Fast to Christ.

So as I surveyed what we've learned together, this great summary conclusion emerged: *Christ is all. He is the Hero of the gospel. He is the center of history. He is the hope of the world. Christ alone.*

Hebrews developed this declaration along three lines, each calling for an appropriate response from us.

1. Christ is the Exalted Son, so pay Him earnest heed.
2. Christ is the Perfect Priest, so draw near to Him for help.
3. Christ is the Eternal Shepherd-King, so persevere in following Him.

### **1. Christ is the Exalted Son, so pay Him earnest heed.**

Hebrews leads off with this great truth. Jesus Christ stands unrivaled.

Hebrews 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

7-fold description:

Messenger of God—God’s final Word

Heir of All Things—He owns it all. He will take back what rightfully belongs to Him—Psalm 2, Revelation 19.

Creator of the World (Ages)—He made it all. (At the center) God Made Visible—He is light to all.

Sustainer of the Universe—He holds it all together.

Purifier of Sinners—He paid it all.

Ruler of All—There is no higher throne.

Greater than the angels—they are God’s servants to serve the heirs of the salvation Christ brings.

Greater than Moses—he was God’s servant to reveal through the law how much we need the salvation Christ brings.

*There is no one else like Jesus in all of human history. Not even close.*

So we dare not neglect His gospel. We dare not turn back from it. We dare not distort it. We dare not go beyond it.

*What we do with Jesus and His revelation is our greatest accountability of all.*

Hebrews 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup> while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Pay close attention—danger of drift  
Divine retribution for neglect—there is a price to pay for treating treasure like trash.

John 15:22-24

<sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now

they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

Hatred need not be expressed by hostile rage. It's the opposite of love. Standing aloof shows hatred. We may not blatantly reject Jesus. We may not express open hatred toward Him. But neutrality and apathy dishonor Him as well. Hebrews warns against neglect. There is a high price to pay for it, and God Himself will exact the penalty.

How much attention do you give to Jesus and what He revealed to us in your daily living? In what ways do you show your devotion to Him as the unique exalted Son? Or do you keep "religion in its place," even when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Such man-centered worship, merely conformed to religious custom, traditional or contemporary, is worthless when it comes to salvation. You must belong to Christ. He gives the Spirit of God to those trusting in Him as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit makes them alive, changing their core disposition of heart, transforming them from the inside out.

C. H. Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students*, 5-6: "People go to their place of worship and sit down comfortably, and think they must be Christians, when all the time all that their religion consists in, is listening to an orator,

having their ears tickled with music, and perhaps their eyes amused with graceful action and fashionable manners; the whole being no better than what they hear and see at the opera—not so good, perhaps, in point of aesthetic beauty, and not an atom more spiritual. Thousands are congratulating themselves, and even blessing God that they are devout worshippers, when at the same time they are living in an unregenerate Christless state, having the form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

We dare not trifle with what we know of Christ and from Christ. We dare not keep Him in a box on the shelf while we give our main attention to everything else in life. He is the exalted Son. Our very life and eternal destiny are at stake. Hence the warning passages in Hebrews against falling away. If you truly know Jesus, why would you not want to have Him close by you?

## **2. Christ is the Perfect Priest, so draw near to Him for help.**

The exalted people we know about are usually far removed from our mundane lives. Not Jesus. He’s the greatest and the closest.

Hebrews 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the

Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 7:25

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 10:19-22

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Sympathizes with Our Weaknesses
- Intercedes for Us in Our Temptations
- Cleanses Us from Our Sins

**Sympathizes with Our Weaknesses**

Hold Fast. He is keenly aware of what you're going through. He has suffered with us the frailty of human flesh. He feels it with us. We matter to Him. We are members of His body.

To Saul of Tarsus: "Why are you persecuting me?"

### **Intercedes for Us in Our Temptations**

Draw near to find grace (favor beyond what we deserve) to help. Temptation attaches to our heart desires to draw us away from God into the self-destruction of sin. Jesus prays for us. It is His ongoing priestly work as the one mediator between God and man.

Luke 22:31-32

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,  
<sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

I find myself wondering how often He has prayed in the same way for me or for you.

### **Cleanses Us from Our Sins**

Draw near with full assurance and clean conscience.

Sin separates us from God. Unless our sins are cleansed we cannot come into His presence. Jesus opened the way. We stand

cleared before God, no longer plagued by our guilty consciences. Not only clears our record, but clears our consciences. No guilt remains, objective or subjective. So it is possible for us to regain the close communion with God that humanity lost in the Garden of Eden. To live life with His blessing instead of His curse.

Romans 8:1, 33-34

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

What weaknesses do you feel that wear you down and wear you out? He feels them with you. Find your safe place in Him.

What temptations are you facing? You are not fighting them alone. He is interceding for you to this very hour. You don't have to give in. He is praying for you that your faith fail not. John 17—Don't take them out of the world; keep (guard) them from the evil.

What sins are plaguing your mind and heart? Lay them before Jesus. Repent from them. Confess them. Forsake them. Let His priceless



blood wash them clean and grant you peace and freedom.

### **3. Christ is the Eternal Shepherd-King, so persevere in following Him.**

Hebrews 10:35-36

**35** Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Confidence, Reward, Endurance—safely home

Hebrews 6:11-12

**11** And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, **12** so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Earnestness (not sluggish)—many have walked this journey exercising faith in Jesus. You are in good company.

Hebrews 12:1-3

**1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Lay aside the weights and the sins  
Run with endurance—joy is ahead of you.  
Set before you—this is your race to run, your  
fight to fight.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

This unshakable kingdom is ours even though we have not experienced the full measure of it yet. But we shall.

The joyful gratitude we feel having made a part of the unshakable kingdom of Christ produces God-exalting worship, along with practical expressions of Christ-centered faith commanded in the early verses of chapter 13 like selfless hospitality, prayerful solidarity, purposeful purity, and intentional frugality.

Hebrews 13:20-21

**20** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **21** equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Because of Christ, our Shepherd-King who is leading us every day until the consummation of the age (Matthew 28:20) into our inheritance of an unshakable kingdom, we find

*Endurance through trials*

*Hope for a certain future*

*Power for living*

*All this brings glory to Christ that will reverberate through the ages forever.*

You have every reason to endure. You can have full confidence that it will all turn out well—in Jesus you cannot lose. God Himself is at work in you to give you strength and wisdom for the journey. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

## **Conclusion**

Unshaken: Hold Fast to Christ

1. Christ is the Exalted Son, so pay Him earnest heed.
2. Christ is the Perfect Priest, so draw near to Him for help.

3. Christ is the Eternal Shepherd-King, so persevere in following Him.

Christ Is All.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are some ways you hold in your mind and heart who Jesus truly is?
2. What are some ways you express your devotion to Him in your daily living?
3. How does knowing Jesus sympathizes with your weaknesses help you?
4. In what ways does it strengthen you to know Jesus is interceding for you in your temptations?
5. What makes Jesus' cleansing you from all your sin and guilt so important to your life for God?
6. How does knowing that Jesus is our great shepherd in our journey of faith help you persevere through trials?
7. How does knowing you belong to an unshakable kingdom that lasts forever help you endure?
8. Why is it so important that God Himself is at work in us to live in a way that pleases Him?