

The Book of Hebrews

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we backtrack and begin reading the book of **Hebrews**. Like the book of **Romans**, this book is a treatise on the Gospel, but its approach is as different as its readership.

The writer to the Hebrews does not identify himself. In fact, there is no preamble at all. The writer immediately launches into the subject of the entire book – the supremacy of Christ.

Various candidates have been put forward to claim the authorship of **Hebrews**. Of these, four are most likely:

- Paul (**2 Peter 3:15-16**)
- Barnabas (**Acts 11:22-26; 13:1**)
- Apollos (**Acts 18:24-28; 19:1; 1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:4-6,22; 16:12**)
- Luke (**Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24**)

Clement of Alexandria, a second/third century Christian leader, attributed the book of **Hebrews** to Paul, as did Origen and many others. There is a measure of support for this, including internal evidence – the expressions used in the book show a remarkable similarity to Paul's epistles. Furthermore, the earliest known collection of Paul's epistles in one volume, dated early third century, includes **Hebrews** as the second book in the series, following **Romans**. Yet since Reformation days, most scholars have questioned Paul's authorship of **Hebrews**.

The readership of **Hebrews**, however, has never been in question. The letter was written to Jewish believers at a time of great persecution (**10:32-34**), some time prior to the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

The book of **Hebrews** is a comparatively long book – 13 chapters. We would encourage you to read the entire letter, portion by portion, throughout today.

Memory Verse

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and
the exact representation of his being, sustaining
all things by his powerful word...

Hebrews 1:3

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!