

The Turning Point of Your Life

Hebrews 1:1-2

As we begin our two year study of Hebrews there are basic questions that need to be answered: Who wrote Hebrews? When was it written? To whom was Hebrews written? Why was it written? Answering these questions can help launch *a turning point* in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Turning points are dramatic, life changing events that *change a person inwardly and effectively*.

I. The writer of Hebrews is not named, but can be deduced.

Many believe the writer is the Apostle Paul and, if not, the writer at least *sounds* like Paul. "Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews" is the title in the Latin Vulgate and all Arabic translations. Clement of Alexandria, an early church father, claimed it to be Paul's, as did many others.

A. There are four major reasons to believe Hebrews to be written by the Apostle Paul.

1. There are many places of word-for-word agreement with Paul's other letters. For example, compare (Heb. 1:2-3 with Col. 1:15-16); (Heb. 5:12-14 with I Cor. 3:1-2); (Heb. 12:1 with I Cor. 9:24); (Heb. 8:7, 13 with I Thess. 5:11-12); (Heb. 13:9 with Eph. 4:14); (Heb. 13:20 with I Thess. 5:23) and many, many more.
2. Peter, apostle to the Hebrews, writes of Paul's letter to the Hebrews (II Pet. 3:15). "*Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters.*"
3. The author wrote Hebrews while "in bonds" in Italy and was a friend to Timothy. (Heb. 13:23-24). Paul was imprisoned in Rome and called Timothy a good friend.
4. The style of Hebrews is similar to all of Paul's writings; doctrine *then* duty. Heb. 1:1 to Heb. 10:18 is doctrine. Then there comes our duty ("therefore" 10:19).

B. There are a couple of reasons why some reject Hebrews as Paul's letter

Paul does not name himself. In every other letter he does with, "*I, Paul ...*" One must remember that Paul (Saul) was at one time persecuting Hebrew Christians (Acts 7:58). God can change a man, but people have a hard time forgiving. Second, the Greek is different. Some answer that Paul wrote it in Hebrew and it was translated to Greek.

II. The words of Hebrews are both theological *and* motivational.

It has already been mentioned that Heb. 1:1 to Heb. 10:18 is doctrine and the rest is duty. Why should you have a firm knowledge of who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished?

A. The early Hebrew Christians found their faith in Christ growing stale.

Paul writes with phrases like "you have become lazy;" "you are neglecting so great a deliverance." The Hebrews no longer were "holding fast to their profession of faith." They found no joy in "hearing from Him who speaks from heaven." They needed help.

B. The only source of health and strength is the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The writer of Hebrews places our weaknesses and Christ's person side by side. He is sure that if we but know Christ, who He is and what He's done, all will be well with us.

III. The wonder of Hebrews is that it can lead to *the* turning point of your life.

I am amazed by those who say they want a relevant church that "answers all my questions." *The* question in life is "who is Jesus and what is my relationship to Him?" When you find out who Jesus is and what He's done, you discover that life can be lived in freedom and joy.