

Hebrews: Jesus the Final Word

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Hebrews 1-2:1

September 6, 2026

Reflection & Discussion

The constant theme of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus is the final word

The author makes the case for the finality and totality of Jesus.

*Do you remember the last time you read Hebrews? What is your perception of this book?

*What thoughts or questions do you have about Hebrews as we come in to studying it?

The people who received this letter were caught between Greek pluralism and Judaism's fundamentalism

The original audience of this text and the struggles they had are key to understanding Hebrews.

*How does this relate to our current context as Christians?

*Do you feel this pull to one or the other? What experience can you share about feeling too narrow-minded AND too permissive in our culture?

Hebrews suggests a 3rd way – a person. Jesus – God's best and final word

Read and discuss Hebrews 1:1-4 (NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

*What do you see in these verses about this 3rd way?

*If Jesus is the exact representation of God's being – how does this refute fundamentalist or pluralistic tendencies?

*Does Jesus being the exact representation of God cause you to perceive God in any different ways?

Because Jesus cares about us enough to die for us, then knowing and following him should be the singular focus of our lives

Read and discuss Hebrews 2:1 (NIV)

2 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

*What does drift feel like in your own life? How do you recognize it?

*What does it feel like to pay 'the most careful attention' to Jesus?

*How would you describe that life? Can you share a time when you've had times of this experience?

We subscribe to philosophies...but we attach to people

Secure attachment is knowing a relationship is secure at all times; living with a constant awareness.

*Why is it significant that Jesus is a person and not a philosophy or an approach to life?

*What would it look like to exchange ideas or ideology for attachment to the person of Jesus?

*How do you specifically stay securely attached to Jesus?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about paying the most careful attention to the person of Jesus?

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