

Family Devotional Guide
For the week of January 1, 2012

“Let Us . . .”
(Various Texts in Hebrews)

Monday: The theme of the book of Hebrews is better than what the Jewish Christians had left behind when they became a Christian. Share a testimony of how you have found Christ (His will or word) to be better than what the wisdom of the world.

Tuesday: Hebrews 4 speaks of the generation of Hebrews that died in the wilderness because they did not believe God’s promise. Read Hebrews 4.16, and give a testimony of how you found this promise to be true in your own life.

Wednesday: Hebrews 6.1 speaks of leaving the “principles” of the doctrine of Christ. The word means “the first things.” in other words the very basics. Think and discuss ways that you can grow deeper in your knowledge of God and His word. Consider Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in Colossians 1.9-12 and pray the same for your family members.

Thursday: In Sunday’s message three keys were given for overcoming doubt: Confidence in the Savior (Hebrews 10.22); Consistency in the Struggle (Hebrews 10.23); and Church in your Service (Hebrews 10.24). Read Hebrews 1.22 and discuss how confident we can be in Christ’s ability to secure our salvation and overcome our sin.

Friday: Hebrews 12.8 speaks of serving Christ with reverence and fear. What is your spiritual gift and how are you using it to serve Christ through the local church. Give a testimony to your family

Saturday: Read Hebrews 1.1-2, and ask God to bless the gathering of His people tomorrow.

Further thoughts on the book of Hebrews . . .

Who wrote Hebrews? This question has led to much conjecture and debate over the centuries. Dissertations, articles, papers, chapters, and even books have been written on the authorship of Hebrews. Assumptions have been made which include: Paul, Barnabas, and a host of others. Each idea has a host of arguments and all are convincing. One interesting argument is that Luke wrote the epistle. (I say “epistle,” some scholars would say it is not an epistle but a sermon or exhortation, although the end of the book reads like an epistle.)

The argument for Luke includes the use of words and syntax similar to that of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, which we know are written by Luke. There is great similarity in vocabulary, style and the use of medical terminology.

The arguments against Lucan authorship include the fact that Hebrews is definitely written by one who was entrenched with knowledge of Jewish history and religion; and Luke was a Gentile. Those who support Luke as the author claim that it is only assumed that he was a Gentile because his name is listed in Colossians 4 and 2 Timothy 4 with other Gentiles.

Luke? Barnabas? Paul? Somebody else? I don't know. Nobody on earth does. The Holy Spirit chose not to give us the identity of the human author. Why? I can't say exactly, but maybe it was to show us that it is better to know the Savior than the servant.