The Epistle to the Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament that teaches the doctrine of Christ’s priesthood. In every chapter we learn to appreciate the author as a skilled and outstanding theologian who is thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures of the Old Testament and who knows the teachings of Christ.

In addition, we study the doctrine of the covenant, the message and purpose of this book, as we apply its teachings to the church of today.

Hebrews is an epistle that intertwines doctrine and exhortation from beginning to end. In the first few verses of chapter 1, the author presents a brief summary of what he is going to say in the first ten chapters. Then in the last part of chapter 10, he once more gives introductory material for chapters 11-13.

The doctrine the author teaches is that of Christ’s priesthood; the exhortations invariably are warnings to heed the Word of God. The author shows that he has a high view of the Scriptures which for him are the word of the Triune God.

The epistle itself is well written in classical Greek with a broad vocabulary and balanced sentences. Verse by verse the reader sees and appreciates the development of the theme: Jesus is our high priest. The author is a pastor at heart, for in nearly every chapter he exhorts his readers to obey God’s written revelation.

Schedule

Oct. 10 p.m. Characteristics, Author, Recipients, Date, Contents. Structure, Theology, Exegesis


Chapter 9:11-28.  Outward and inward cleansing from sin.  Covenant and will.  Shedding of blood and forgiveness


Material from other sources.  Conclusion.

Assignments


There are no examinations in this course; instead you are asked to write a twenty-page term paper (plus references, bibliography, notes) on a Hebrews-related topic.  The due date for the paper is November 18, 2005.  You are advised to consult with me on a topic as well as the scope, structure, and progress of your paper.  I have placed some books on the reserve shelf.  Consult the card catalog for additional references.

Here are a few suggestions for a topic:
Jesus' divinity and humanity in Hebrews.  
The admonitions in the Epistle to the Hebrews.  
Jesus' temptations and sinlessness.  
The Sabbath rest for God's people.  
Contrasting the priesthoods of Aaron and Melchizedek.  
The sin against the Holy Spirit.  
Melchizedek, the royal priest.  
The high priest and the new covenant.  
The tabernacle in the desert.  
Christ's once-for-all sacrifice.  
The faith of the patriarch Abraham.  
Moses's faith and works.  
Contrasting Mount Sinai and Mount Zion.  
The author and the readers of his epistle.  
The authenticity of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Reserve Shelf

Bruce, F. F.  Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews
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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calvin, John</td>
<td><em>The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews</em></td>
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<td>Ellingworth, P.</td>
<td><em>The Epistle to the Hebrews</em></td>
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<td>Hagner, D.</td>
<td><em>Hebrews</em></td>
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<td>Kent, H. A.</td>
<td><em>The Epistle to the Hebrews</em></td>
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<td>Kistemaker, S. J.</td>
<td><em>Exposition of Hebrews</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lane, W. L.</td>
<td><em>Hebrews 1-8, 9-13, two volumes</em></td>
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<td>Moffatt, J.</td>
<td><em>Hebrews (ICC)</em></td>
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<td>Morris, L.</td>
<td><em>Hebrews</em></td>
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<td>Stedman, R. C.</td>
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