



THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Hebrews

Dear Church Family,

This term, we are working through the book of Hebrews. It is a weighty letter that continually points us toward the **supremacy of Jesus** and the vital importance of staying close to Him. As we work our way through these chapters together, my prayer is that you would be deeply encouraged in your daily walk and that you'd grow to rest more fully in the extreme love He has for you.

You might notice that some of the studies are a little shorter this term. This isn't because there is less to say, but rather to create intentional space for us to **pray together**. To help guide that time, I've outlined several of our church ministries; I would love for your groups to use that extra time to bring these before God.

We also have a few "exciting interruptions" to our regular rhythm this term where we will step away from Hebrews to celebrate specific events:

- **May 3:** The Official Opening of our Building Extension.
- **May 24:** Playtime & Kids Club Sunday.
- **June 14:** We welcome our guest speaker, David Cook.

Please join me in praying for each of these events that they would be a time of great encouragement and excitement in our church family. Please note... I have included some prayer points to help with your prayer time, please feel free to add your own as the term goes on.

Your Pastor,

Al Burke

Things to be praying for...

Monday:

(Directory Pages 1–2)

- **Scripture in Schools:** Pray for the Scripture teachers' preparation and for the students' hearts as they hear the wonderful news of Jesus today.
- **Crossroads Prison Ministries:** Praise God for the many lives reached. Pray for Alan Poyner and the team as they continue to share hope with inmates internationally.
- **Church Leadership & Stewardship:** Pray for the Committee of Management, our finances, Elders / Leadership Team. We thank God for His faithful provision of building and grounds.

Tuesday:

(Directory Pages 3–4)

- **Our Children & Youth:** Praise God for the dedicated Kids Church Preppies & Creche leaders. Pray that the children in our church family would grow to know and follow Jesus personally.
- **Seniors Group:** Pray for a time of genuine encouragement and refreshment as they meet together today.
- **Mission – The Grocotts (Romania):** Pray for their ministry to the community in Romania. May they be strengthened as they raise up new leaders and reach the lost.

- **Yamba & surrounds Community:** Pray for the communities we live and meet in. Pray that we may reach these communities with the good news of Jesus.

Wednesday:

(Directory Pages 5–7)

- **Mid-week Studies:** Lift up our morning, evening (mixed), Ladies and men's Bible studies. Pray for our leaders to have wisdom and clarity as they point us all to God's Word. May everyone be encouraged to stay close to Jesus and find strength in Him through every trial and temptation.
- **Presbytery & Regional Churches:** Pray for our sister churches in the region, that we would all remain keenly focused on the Gospel of grace.
- **Kids Club:** Praise God for this afternoon's energy! Pray for the kids and their families, that many would come to know Jesus through this ministry.
- **Missions:** Lian Pi in Myanmar, the children in his care, safety and help.

Thursday:

(Directory Pages 8–9)

- **Playtime:** Pray for the team as they encourage local parents. May this be a place of huge support and a bridge for families to encounter the church's care and the gospels grace .
- **Our Elders:** Pray for our Elders to have Godly wisdom and a shepherd's heart as they lead and encourage our congregation.
- **Mission – Vincent Whiting (Hungary):** Pray for Vincent's ministry to university students as he winds up his commitments in Hungary and looks to come home for Bible College.

Friday:

(Directory Pages 10–12)

- **Carroona Service:** Pray for those attending the service today. May they find great joy in Jesus and be encouraged by the message shared. Give thanks for those residents of Carroona who are a part of our Church Family.
- **Youth Group:** Pray for the leaders and speakers tonight. May God use this time to draw young people closer to Himself in a fun and safe environment.
- **Sunday Preparation:** Pray for everyone involved in our upcoming service. May our hearts be prepared to be challenged and changed by God's Word as we give Him all the glory.

Date	Passage	Big Idea
26.04.26	Hebrews 3:1-4:13	A Greater Rest
03.05.26		Extension Opening
10.05.26	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	A Greater High Priest
17.05.26	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	A Greater Hope
24.05.26		Playtime/Kids Club Sunday
31.05.26	Hebrews 6:13-7:28	An Anchor for the Soul
07.06.26	Hebrews 8:1-13	The Greater Covenant
14.06.26		Guest Speaker
21.06.26	Hebrews 9:1-10:18	Once for All
28.06.26	Hebrews 10:19-39	Precievering for Christ
05.07.26	Hebrews 11:1-12:3	Persevering for The Kingdom
12.07.26	Hebrews 12:4-13	Enduring for the Kingdom
19.07.26	Hebrews 12:14-13:25	Serving and Living for the Kingdom

Hebrews 1:1–2:4 | The Supremacy of the Son

1. In verse 1, how did God communicate with His people in the past? Who were the "forefathers" and "prophets," and what were some of the "various ways" God spoke through them?
2. How does God speak to us today? Does the phrase "in these last days" (v. 2) make God's previous revelations irrelevant? Why or why not?
3. What specific evidence does the writer provide in verses 3–6 to demonstrate the unique worthiness and status of the Son?
4. In what specific ways is Jesus shown to be superior to the angels in verses 5–14?
5. What do these revelations of God—through prophets and finally through His Son—tell us about His character and His desire to be known?
6. Why is Jesus' superiority to angels so critical to the warning in Hebrews 2:1–4? What was the "message spoken by angels" that was so binding?
7. How does the description of Jesus in this chapter compare with how He is viewed by modern society today?
8. What are some "warning signs" that someone is beginning to drift away from the Gospel? In your own life, what are the primary distractions that cause you to drift, and how can you combat them?

Key Question: How does the description of Jesus in this chapter compare with how He is viewed by modern society?

Personal Reflection: What are the specific distractions in your life that cause you to "drift" from the Gospel?

Hebrews 2:5–18 | The Founder of Salvation

1. When people say, "I'm only human," what are they usually trying to excuse or explain?
2. Based on this passage, what is the greatest problem or "limitation" of being human? How do people in our culture typically try to solve this problem?

Read Psalm 8

3. What two things stand out to you regarding what Psalm 8 says about the dignity and status of mankind?
4. What tension does the writer point out in verse 8b? How is Jesus the specific solution to this problem in verse 9?
5. What "obstacles" or sufferings did Jesus have to endure to fulfil the mission described in verses 10–11?
6. How do we personally benefit from the fact that Jesus shared in our flesh and blood (vv. 14–16)?
7. How does Jesus destroy the "bond of slavery" mentioned here? Why do people still fear death today, and what specific reasons does this text give us to live without that fear?
8. What is the nature of the "Sabbath rest" that remains for the people of God?
9. How is our current life experience similar to that of the Israelites in the wilderness? What specific warnings are given to ensure we don't repeat their mistakes?
10. How do we "strive to enter that rest" (4:11)? What should our attitude be toward God's Word, given its description in verses 12–13?
11. How is sin "deceptive," and in what ways can it gradually harden a person's heart?

Key Question: Based on this passage, what is the greatest "limitation" of being human? How is Jesus the specific solution to this in verse 9?

Personal Reflection: Why do people still fear death today, and how does this text give you a reason to live without that fear?

Hebrews 3:1–4:13 | A Greater Rest

1. How do you feel when you've been let down by someone close to you? How does that help us understand God's response to the unfaithfulness of Israel?

2. How is Jesus like Moses, yet far greater? Why is the "builder of the house" worthy of more honour than the house itself?
3. Verse 6 says we are God's house. How do we practically demonstrate that we belong to His household?
4. What does it mean to "fix your thoughts on Jesus" (v. 1) in the middle of a busy week? What things most easily distract you from doing this?
5. Why was the message the Israelites heard of "no value" to them (4:2)? What was missing?
6. Thinking back to Genesis, what did God "rest" from? Did humanity ever fully share in that rest? If not, what stopped them?

Key Question: What does it mean to "fix your thoughts on Jesus" (v. 1) in the middle of a busy week?

Personal Reflection: What "weights" or distractions make it difficult for you to fix your eyes on Jesus?

Hebrews 4:14–5:10 | A Greater High Priest

1. Is there something in your life you didn't fully value until it was gone? How does that relate to our appreciation of Jesus' role as Priest?
2. Why were priests so central to the life of God's people in the Old Testament? What did they do that the people couldn't do for themselves?
3. The author lists four ways Jesus is a superior High Priest to those of the Old Testament. Can you identify them in this passage?
4. In what sense did Jesus "learn obedience" and "be made perfect" (5:8–9)? Does this mean He was once disobedient or imperfect? (Think in terms of His human experience and the completion of His mission).
5. Why can we now have "confidence" to enter God's presence? Is this a license to be casual or complacent about our sin? Why or why not?

Key Question: Why can we now have "confidence" to enter God's presence? Does this mean we should be casual about our sin?

Personal Reflection: *Is there something from your past that makes you feel "disqualified"? How does Jesus' priesthood answer that feeling?*

6. What things in your past make you feel "disqualified" from approaching God? According to this passage, why won't God refuse those who come through Jesus?

Hebrews 5:11–6:12 | A Greater Hope

1. What are the physical dangers of a poor diet? How does the writer use this as an analogy for spiritual growth?
2. Why did the writer feel the readers weren't ready for the "solid food" regarding Melchizedek? What are the dangers of remaining on a "milk-only" spiritual diet?
3. What are the "better things" and joys associated with a mature spiritual diet (6:9–12)?
4. Given the theme of the letter, what is the author warning his readers against in 6:4–6? How do the agricultural images in verses 7–8 help clarify this warning?
5. What practical habits ensure we maintain a healthy spiritual diet? What are the biggest obstacles to these habits in your current season of life?
6. How can we, as a church family, encourage one another to keep growing rather than standing still?

Key Question: What are the dangers of remaining on a "milk-only" spiritual diet?

Personal Reflection: What is one practical habit you can start this week to move toward "solid food" in your faith?

Hebrews 6:13–7:28 | An Anchor of the Soul

1. What are the two "unchangeable things" (oaths) God makes in 6:13–18 and 7:20–22? Why are they so significant for our security?

2. Verse 6:19 calls our hope a "firm and secure anchor." In what "storms" of life do you most need to feel that anchor holding?
3. List the differences between the Levitical priesthood (the old way) and the order of Melchizedek (Jesus' way).
4. The Perfect Priest: What specific characteristics of Jesus make Him the only acceptable High Priest for all of humanity (7:22–28)?
5. Intercession: What does it mean for us today that Jesus "always lives to intercede" for us (v. 25)?
6. What does the necessity of a High Priest like Jesus say about our true condition and our deepest need?

Key Question: In what "storms" of life do you most need to feel that Christ is your "firm and secure anchor" (6:19)?

Personal Reflection: List 2–3 ways your life would change if you truly believed Jesus is currently interceding for you.

Hebrews 8:1–13 | A Greater Covenant

1. The Problem with the First: Why was the first covenant considered "insufficient" or "finding fault" (v. 7)?
2. The New & Superior: In what ways is the New Covenant superior to the Old? Focus on the internal change vs. external regulations.
3. The Passing of the Old: What happened to the Old Covenant once the New arrived?
4. Radical Forgiveness: Why would the promise that God will "remember their sins no more" (v. 12) have been such explosive good news to a Jewish audience?
5. Our Role: How has God fulfilled His part of the New Covenant? What is our "role" or response within this relationship?
6. The Sanctuary: Where does our High Priest serve now, and why does the location matter?

Key Question: How has God fulfilled His part of the New Covenant, and what does it look like for us to live under its "internal" laws rather than external rules?

Personal Reflection: Why is the promise that God will "remember your sins no more" such significant news for you at this time?

Hebrews 9:1–10:18 | Once for All

1. What could the New Covenant achieve that the Old Covenant (with all its tabernacle rituals) could never do?
2. Where does Jesus' ministry take place? How does this compare to the earthly "copy" used by Old Testament priests?
3. According to 9:22, why is blood necessary? How does the sacrifice of Jesus differ from the animal sacrifices in terms of frequency and effectiveness?
4. What is in store for all people after death (9:27)? How does Jesus' second coming (v. 28) change the outlook for those waiting for Him?
5. Why do you think the phrase "once for all" is repeated so frequently? What happens to our assurance if we lose sight of this truth?
6. Why would these early Christians be tempted to go back to the "old way" of rituals and laws? When are you tempted to rely on your own "works" or "rituals" rather than the finished work of Christ?

Key Question: Why do we often feel the need to "re-pay" for our sins through guilt or rituals, even though the phrase "once for all" is repeated so often here?

Personal Reflection: What are the "old ways" or personal performance metrics you are most tempted to revert to when you feel distant from God?

Hebrews 10:19–39 | Persevering for Christ

1. Identify the three "Let us" phrases in verses 22–25. What is the specific command in each?

2. Why was entering the Most Holy Place terrifying under the Old Covenant? Why are we now told to enter with "boldness"?
3. What does the writer mean by "deliberately keep on sinning" (v. 26)? What is the warning for those who treat the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing?
4. How do verses 32–34 encourage us to endure persecution or hardship? How can we "joyfully accept the confiscation of our property" (or other losses)?
5. What is the end result of those who persevere? What is the result for those who shrink back?

Key Question: Looking at the "Let us" commands in verses 22–25, which one do you find most difficult to practice consistently: drawing near, holding unswervingly, or spurring others on?

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your life do you currently feel the pressure to "shrink back," and what truth from this passage helps you persevere?

Hebrews 11:1–12:3 | Persevering for the Kingdom

1. Pick three "heroes of faith" from chapter 11. How was their faith specifically demonstrated through their actions?
2. How did these people view themselves in relation to the world around them (11:13)? How should that shape our view of our own lives in Yamba?
3. Why does the writer give us this long list of names before the instructions in 12:1–3? How does being "surrounded" by them help us?
4. What are some "weights" or "hindrances" in your life that aren't necessarily *sins*, but they still slow you down in your Christian race? How do we "throw them off"?
5. What must we focus on to ensure we do not grow weary or lose heart?

Key Question: How does reframing hardship as "loving discipline" (12:7) change the way you view the difficult circumstances in your life right now?

Personal Reflection: Based on the final chapter, what does "acceptable worship" look like for you in your daily work, family life?

Hebrews 12:4–13:25 | Enduring for the Kingdom

1. The Purpose of Hardship: When things go wrong, we often feel God has abandoned us. How does this passage reframe hardship as "discipline"? What is the intended "harvest" of this discipline (12:11)?
2. Responses to Discipline: What are the different ways a person might respond to God's correction? (See v. 5).
3. The Danger of Esau: How are we at risk of "selling our birthright" for a single meal? What "bowls of soup" are we tempted by today?
4. Compare the description of Mt. Sinai (vv. 18–21) with Mt. Zion (vv. 22–24). Which one do you tend to live at more often?
5. What does the world think "worship" is? According to 12:28–29 and chapter 13, what does "acceptable worship" actually look like in daily life?
6. Identify the "bitter roots" mentioned in 12:15–16 and 13:4–5. How can we practically avoid these in our community?

- **Final Reflections:** Looking back over the whole book of Hebrews:
 - What has **challenged** you to change?
 - What has **reminded** you of a forgotten truth?
 - What has **encouraged** you the most?