

Outline #1 The Letter to the Hebrews
and to Us

Bless the LORD, O my soul – Psalm 103:1-4

1. A glorious beginning

- a) Hebrews 2:1-4 How was the Gospel message first delivered to the Christians who received the Letter to the Hebrews?
- b) What was the purpose of the signs and wonders that accompanied the proclamation of the Gospel message? Mark 16:20
- c) Name some miracles and gifts of the Spirit that were manifested as the early Christians gave their testimony about Jesus Christ, their Risen Savior.
- d) What is your conversion story, and how did the LORD work in supernatural ways to confirm the truth of the Gospel through signs and wonders, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

2. Suffering and persecution

- a) Hebrews 10:32-34 (see also Hebrews 13:3)
- b) Consider some of the mistreatment Christians faced simply because they were followers of Jesus: Acts 8:1-3, 16:19-23, 17:5-6. Other examples?
- c) What counsel did the apostle Peter give to Christians who suffered as followers of Jesus? 1 Peter 4:14-16
- d) What prophecies of Jesus were fulfilled in the lives of the early Christians? John 15:18-21, 16:2-3
- e) How does the teaching and example of Jesus bring encouragement to us when we are called to suffer for righteousness' sake? Matthew 5:10-12, Hebrews 2:18, 12:3

- f) Name some individuals whose stories are recorded in the Bible who suffered persecution because of their faithfulness to God.
- g) Share a time after you became a follower of Jesus when you suffered persecution. What lessons did you learn through that experience?
- h) How can we avoid becoming “weary and discouraged in our souls” (Hebrews 12:3) when we face persecution and suffering as followers of Jesus? (see 1 Kings 19:1-18)

3. Pressing together in these last days

- a) Hebrews 2:1
- b) Hebrews 3:12-14
- c) Hebrews 10:19-25,37
- d) Why is Christian community so important, especially during times of persecution and suffering?
- e) What can we learn from the experience of Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail? Acts 16:16-25
- f) Why is this message so relevant for our lives today? Revelation 12:12,17, 13:11-16
- g) Share a time when a Christian friend encouraged you while you were suffering as a follower of Jesus.

