

The Son is superior!

Forefront will embark on a six-week investigation into what Hebrews has to say about Jesus, the Son. Here are the passages to read before each of the weekly topics if you want to get the most from them.

21 February—The Son (read Hebrews chapter 1). This will be a youth-led service, with Nigel Marsh speaking.

28 February—Jesus, Author of Salvation (read Heb 2). Andy Mills from Chard Baptist Church will be sharing with us.

6 March—Jesus, High Priest (read Heb 4:14-5:10, 6:19-7:28). Keith Barnard speaks, and the service includes Communion.

13 March—Jesus, Mediator of the New Covenant (read Heb 8:1-9:15). With Jo Kerr speaking.

20 March—Jesus, Our Sacrifice (read Heb 9:16-10:18). Ken Barrett, one of Forefront's missionary links, will share with us.

27 March—Jesus, Our Future (read Hebrews 12 and 13). This is our Easter service.

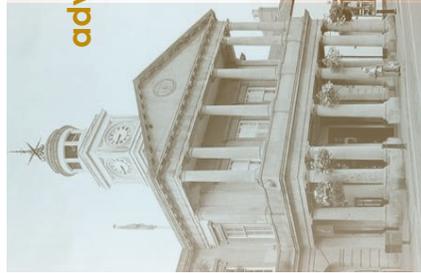
A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world

Our values:

Seek God – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

Love Generously – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

Expect transformation – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community



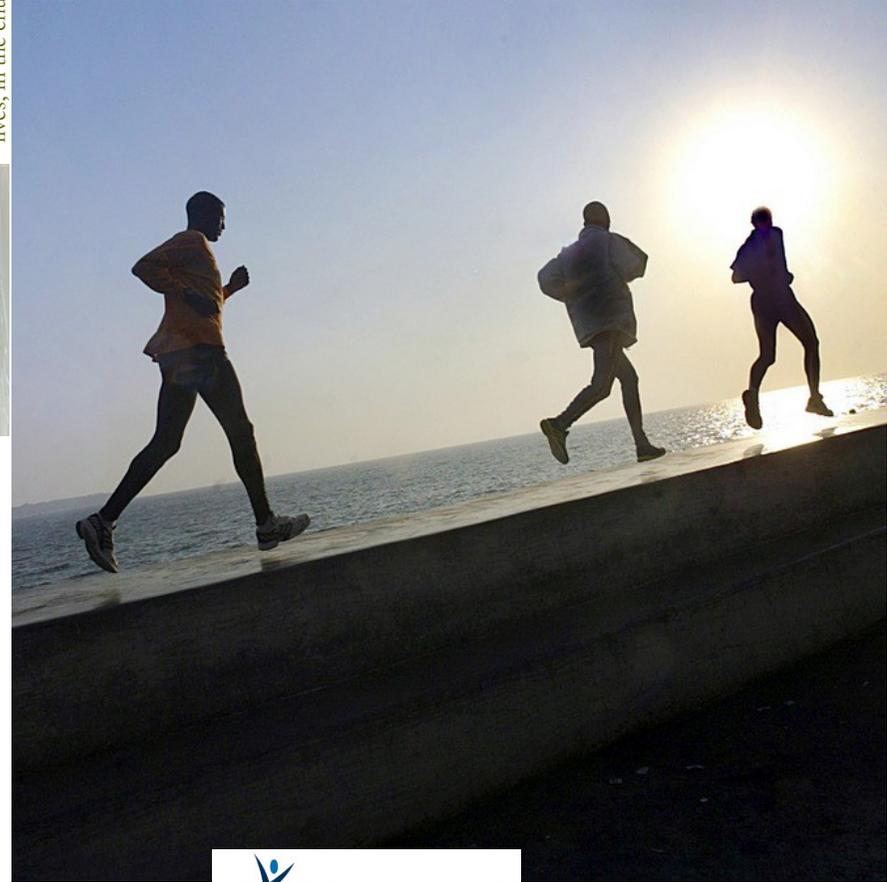
Forefront Community Church

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you want to discuss things mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to do so. Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

Finding Jesus in Hebrews

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1,2





What's in it?

Jesus—The Son (21 February)

The very first sentence of the letter is a clue to what's coming. The writer is going to look at all the possible things a backsliding church of mostly-Jewish Christians might consider giving up their faith for, and demonstrate why turning back makes no sense. The Son of God is superior to all alternatives—human and divine, he is now “seated at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven”.



Jesus is greater ...

than angels

Important when early “gnostic” heretics were trying to depict Jesus as a mere part of the heavenly hierarchy

than humanity

Because, though made like them, he is divine and died *for* them as a merciful High Priest

than Moses

Who was a faithful servant of God, while Jesus was the unique Son of God

than Joshua

Because Jesus brings his people into a greater rest than Joshua did

than Aaron

Because Jesus is a priest without sin, providing eternal rescue from sin

In addition ...

His covenant is greater than the former, as is his heavenly Tabernacle. His shed blood is a superior sacrifice. Even his mountain of joy is greater than Moses's “mountain of fear”.

Hebrews at a glance

We don't know who wrote it. The Apostle Paul has been suggested, and while some parts reflect his style, his authorship was doubted from the earliest times because of the letter's distinct theological approach. Apollos is a strong contender—see Ac 18:24-28 and 1 Cor 3:4,5. Barnabas has also been suggested, and Priscilla has been proposed by a number of scholars (though the writer uses a male gender participle).

The letter is considered to be a literary gem, using the most elegant written Greek of the New Testament. It was presumably written before the Temple was destroyed by the Romans (70BC) - it would be hard to imagine that event not being mentioned in the sections on the High Priest, sacrifices and tabernacle.

The theme

The letter was probably written to Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, encouraging them not to give up their faith, despite ferocious persecution. The emphasis throughout is on the supremacy of the Son—to remind readers of Jesus Christ, of his person, character and ministry, and his role as High Priest and mediator between God and humanity.

Two types of writing intertwine throughout; strong teaching about the nature of Christ and his primacy over all other revelations of God, and a powerful call not to fall from the faith.

Jesus—Author of Salvation (28 February)

The mystery of Jesus's divine and human nature is treated with awe, but there is no sense of it being controversial. In giving humans ‘glory and honour’, God had to ‘taste death for everyone’ so he could bring sons and daughters to glory and ‘help those who are being tempted’. To do that, “he too shared in their humanity”.

Jesus—Our High Priest (6 March)

Today we may not feel the need for someone special who stands in the gap between us and God but, to the Jews, such a person was essential. The High Priest was ordained to act on behalf of his people. Hebrews teaches that Jesus is greater than any human priest, the fulfilment of all priesthood, and the only one who meets our real need.

Jesus—Mediator of the New Covenant (13 March)

Out with the old, and in with the new! “By coming up with a new plan, a new covenant between God and his people, God put the old plan on the shelf. And there it stays, gathering dust.” (Heb 8:13, The Message). What was wrong with the old plan anyway? And what is this exciting new plan, and what relevance does it have for us today?



Jesus—Our Sacrifice (20 March)

The mystery of blood is explored. Old Testament sacrifice involved bloodshed in an earthly Tabernacle because it was all a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice for all sin, offered in the heavenly Tabernacle. God-in-Christ had to come in a body, precisely so he could offer it in sacrifice.

Jesus—Our Future (27 March, Easter Sunday)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Jesus is our Saviour, our Rescuer. By faith in Him we begin a new, eternal life. So we will share in the glory of the new heavens and new earth - the future is bright, the future is Jesus!