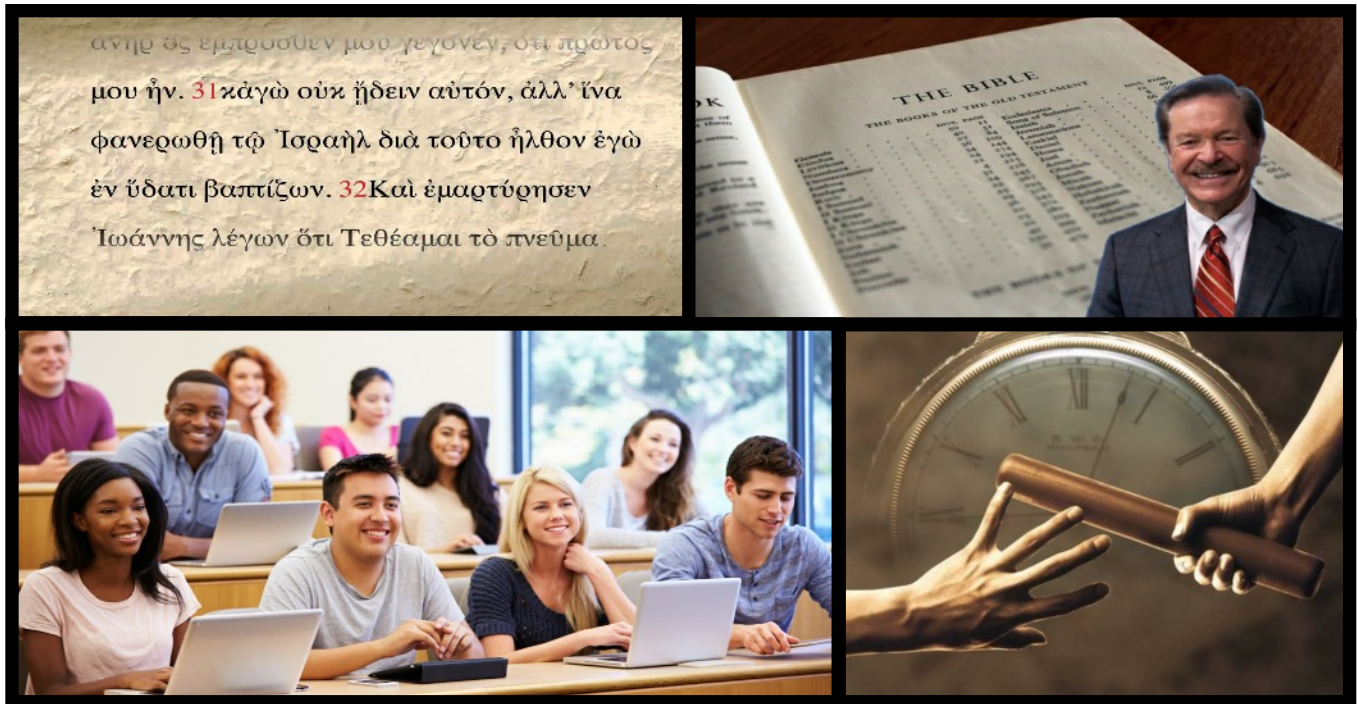


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

The Book of Hebrews

NT526

Dr. Ian Bond

BINT225: THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

DR. IAN BOND

Textbook for the Course:
Be Confident
by Warren Wiersbe

About the Instructor

Born in Great Britain, Ian Bond began preaching in the mid 1970s while still a high school student. Ian earned a Bachelor's degree majoring in Church History from the University of Lancaster, England and a Master's degree in Theology from Christian Life School of Theology. Over the years, he has gained broad experience in teaching and pastoral ministry, youth ministry, discipleship training, evangelism and missions. For ten years, Ian worked with Plumbline Ministries in Great Britain as director of overseas missions and first president of the Christian Academy Bible College.

Ian is a prophetic Bible teacher with a growing international reputation for clear, systematic Bible teaching. His ministry has a strong emphasis on faith, deliverance, healing and the power of God for today. He has ministered throughout the United States and Great Britain, also in Eastern Europe, Asia, the Far East, the Pacific islands and Latin America.

Ian and his family live in Virginia, where he is senior pastor of New Life Church of Faith and founder-president of Teach the Nations Christian Ministries. He is also chairman of the New Testament Division and Virginia state director of Christian Life School of Theology and chancellor of CLST of Central Virginia.

Course Description and Requirements

I. Course Description

This is an in-depth study of the Epistle to the Hebrews. It was written to wavering Jewish believers, encouraging them to stand fast in their faith. God is shaking things so you may learn to live by faith and not by sight. He wants you to build your life on the permanence of the eternal and not on the instability of the temporal.

II. Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are as follows:

- A. To appreciate Hebrews in its historical context;
- B. To explore the overwhelming superiority of Christ;
- C. To understand the true grounds for access to God's presence and the true basis for all Christian confidence;
- D. To apply to our own lives the insights and principles taught in Hebrews;
- E. To increase our knowledge of the Word of God as a whole.

III. Textbooks and Study Aids

- A. The Holy Bible—New King James Version
- B. One other translation of the Bible chosen by the student
- C. This Syllabus
- D. Textbook:
Wiersbe, Warren W. Be Confident: How to Keep Your Balance in the Day We Live. Colorado Springs: Victor, 1982.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Read the entire Epistle to the Hebrews in the New King James Version of the Bible.
- B. Read and study the course syllabus and the textbook.
- C. It is suggested that you read any of the books listed in the bibliography. Those marked with an asterisk are preferred; however, you may read any with good profit.
- D. Complete the final examination as assigned by your chancellor.

V. Course Evaluation

Course evaluation is on the following basis:

- A. Attendance at all the lectures is required. If a lecture is missed for any (legitimate) reason, the chancellor must be informed in advance and the tape should be heard.
- B. Final examination

Selected Bibliography

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. *
- Guthrie, Donald. *The Epistle to the Hebrews: An Introduction and Commentary*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries Vol. 15. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.
- McGee, J. Vernon. *Hebrews, Vol. 1. Thru The Bible Commentary: vol. 51*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991.
- . *Hebrews, Vol. 2. Thru The Bible Commentary: vol. 52*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991.
- Murray, Andrew. *The Holiest of All* (1894 Edition). London: Marshall, 1976. *
- . *The Holiest of All* (Abridged Edition). Fort Worth: Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1993.
- Prince, Derek. *God's Last Word: A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Lectures). Fort Lauderdale: Derek Prince Ministries, 1983.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Confident*. Colorado Springs: Victor, 1982. *

Reference Works

- Marshall, Alfred. *The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament*. London: Bagster, 1958.
- Vine, W.E. *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (One-volume edition). London: Oliphants, 1952.
- Zodhiates, Spiros, ed. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Revised Edition). Chattanooga: AMG, 1993.
- . *The Complete Word Study New Testament*. Chattanooga: AMG, 1991.
- . *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*. Chattanooga: AMG, 1994.

Introduction

I. By Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D.

The author of the Book of Hebrews is unknown. Martin Luther suggested that Apollos was the author. This is based on Acts 18:24–28, where Apollos is referred to as a well-read, Hellenistic Jew from Alexandria in Egypt. Tertullian (writing in A.D. 150–230) said that Hebrews was a letter of Barnabas. Adolf Harnack and J. Rendel Harris speculated that it was written by Priscilla (or Prisca). William Ramsey suggested that it was done by Philip. However, the traditional position is that the Apostle Paul wrote Hebrews. From the very beginning, the eastern church attributed the letter to him, but the western church did not accept this until the fourth century. Eusebius (A.D. 263–339) believed that Paul wrote it, but Origen (ca. A.D. 185–254) was not positive of Pauline authorship. About the end of the second century, Clement of Alexandria thought that Paul had originally written the letter in the Hebrew language and that it was later translated by Luke or by someone else into Greek. Notwithstanding, the recipients of the letter knew who the author was and recognized his credibility in writing the work.

There is also uncertainty as to the exact date of the writing of Hebrews. Numerous references to the temple in Jerusalem seem to place the date of writing prior to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (Heb. 10:11; 13:10–11).

The purpose of the epistle was to reassure Jewish believers that their faith in Jesus as the Messiah was secure and legitimate. Also, it was intended to prepare them for the impending disaster of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem. The temple, with its system of animal sacrifices, and the office of the priest, would soon be done away with, just as Jesus had predicted. The Book of Hebrews explains that there was no more need for a priest to intercede before God on an individual's behalf since Christ's death provided believers with direct access to God's throne (Heb. 4:14–16; 10:19–22). Furthermore, the blood of Christ now continually takes away sin (Heb. 9:18–26).

The Book of Hebrews is divided into two major sections: the first deals with doctrinal issues (Heb. 1:1–10:18), and the second focuses on practical living (Heb. 10:19–13:25). In addition to this, it contains several warnings to Jewish Christians not to revert back to Judaism and that system of worship (Heb. 10:39). It was evident that these believers were weak in their faith; when they should have been teaching others, they themselves still required teaching. The writer urges them to grow and not remain as "babes" in Christ (Heb. 5:12–14). A major theme in the book, often expressed by the words "better" and "great," is the superiority and preeminence of Christ (Heb. 1:4; 2:3; 4:14; 7:19, 22; 8:6; 9:11, 23; 10:32, 34, 35; 11:16, 34, 40; 12:1; 13:20).

From *The Complete Word Study New Testament*

II. Key Words

A. High Priest—18		
B. Promise—16	}	High Priest guarantees
C. Oath—13	}	fulfillment of these
D. Covenant—16	}	(see Hebrews 8:6)
E. Offering—27	}	
F. Sacrifice—15	}	Required to establish covenant
G. Blood—21	}	
H. Faith—38	}	
I. Hope—5	}	Response required from us
J. Confession—8	}	
K. Inheritance—10	}	
L. Rest—12	}	Our objectives
M. Perfection—14	}	

III. Five Parenthetical Warnings

- A. Neglect (Hebrews 2:1–4)
- B. Unbelief (Hebrews 3:7–4:13)
- C. Falling away (Hebrews 5:12–6:20)
- D. Willfully continuing to sin (Hebrews 10:26–39)
- E. Coming short of the grace of God (Hebrews 12:14–29)

Those who, through sloth, remain babes in Christ, and do not press on to maturity, are ever in danger of hardening their heart, of coming short and falling away. Only those who hold fast the beginning firm to the end, who give diligence to enter the rest, who press on unto perfection, do in very deed inherit and enjoy the wonderful new covenant blessings secured to us in Christ.

Andrew Murray

IV. Seven Passages of Comparison

	INFERIOR	SUPERIOR	
A.	Angels	Jesus	Hebrews 1:4-14
B.	Moses	Jesus	Hebrews 3:1-6
C.	Levitical Priesthood	Priesthood of Melchizedek	Hebrews 7
D.	Old Covenant	New Covenant	Hebrews 8:6-13
E.	Tabernacle of Moses	Heavenly Tabernacle	Hebrews 9
F.	Levitical Sacrifices	Sacrifice of Jesus	Hebrews 10:1-18
G.	Mount Sinai	Mount Zion	Hebrews 12:18-24

V. Twelve "Let Us" Passages (Indicating Corporate Decision)

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|----|---------------|--|
| A. | Hebrews 4:1 | Let us fear. |
| B. | Hebrews 4:11 | Let us be diligent. |
| C. | Hebrews 4:14 | Let us hold fast our confession. |
| D. | Hebrews 4:16 | Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace. |
| E. | Hebrews 6:1 | Let us press on to maturity/perfection. |
| F. | Hebrews 10:22 | Let us draw near (into the Holiest of all). |
| G. | Hebrews 10:23 | Let us hold fast the confession of our hope. |
| H. | Hebrews 10:24 | Let us consider how to stimulate one another. |
| I. | Hebrews 12:1 | Let us run with endurance. |
| J. | Hebrews 12:28 | Let us show gratitude (or have grace). |
| K. | Hebrews 13:13 | Let us go out to him. |
| L. | Hebrews 13:15 | Let us offer up a sacrifice of praise. |

The listings in items II through V are adapted from research material by Dr. Derek Prince.

Part One—Doctrinal—Hebrews 1:1–10:18

The Son of God, the Mediator of a Better Covenant

I. The Theme—Hebrews 1:1–3

The Glory of the Son in His Person and Work

"At various times," *polumeros* [4181], literally means "in many portions."

First occurrence of *heir/inherit/inheritance*

"Last days" (compare Acts 2:16–17)

Sunteleia [4930], the culmination, completion or consummation of an intended purpose.

A. Sevenfold revelation of Christ as God's Son—Hebrews 1:2–3

1. His Eternal Being:

a) _____ of all things

b) The _____ through Him.

Aion [165], referring to an age or time; the world itself as an object of creation and existence—anticipates Einstein's "Theory of Relativity."

c) _____ of God's glory