

WEEK 8 FINAL EXAM

Dermot Robinson

Bi New Testament Epistle

Professor: Rosario Lee Slack

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Evil existed from the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden. As a result humanity inherited sin from birth. "Behold I was brought forth in iniquity; I was sinful when my mother conceive me." (Psalm 5: 51 KJV) Satan is the author and architect of sin and is always against God. So it is no surprise that he will continue to be disruptive and destructive among God's creation and one of his weapons is to divide and conquer. This paper serves to illustrate his attacks on the Early Christian Church and the pro actions and actions of the proponents of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, namely Paul, Peter and John, to stand against the false Prophets and practices that do not relate truthfully and line up to the deity of Jesus Christ. This paper most importantly will also deal specifically with the authors' perspectives of the problems and their assertions as biblical the solutions of these three Biblical New Testament books, Hebrews, First, Second and Third Peter and First, Second and Third John. In addition with how would these perspectives and solutions that existed in the church are present here today? The Bible states clearly that "heaven and earth will pass away but my "Words" shall not pass away" Mathew 24: 35

*"The theme of Hebrews is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as revealer and as mediator of God's grace. The prologue (1:1-4) presents Christ as God's full and final revelation, far surpassing the revelation given in the OT. The prophecies and promises of the OT are fulfilled in the "new covenant" (or "new testament"), of which Christ is the mediator. From the OT itself, Christ is shown to be superior to the ancient prophets, to angels, to Moses (the mediator of the former covenant) and to Aaron and the priestly succession descended from him. Hebrews could be called "the book of better things" since the two Greek words for "better" and "superior" occur 15 times in the letter. A striking feature of this presentation of the gospel is the*

*unique manner in which the author employs expositions of eight specific passages of the OT Scriptures:*" <https://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/>

The book of Hebrews was written mainly to the Hebrew believers. There are speculations as to whether it was written by Paul or Barnabas in approximately 67A. D. Its main purpose was to project Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head over anything that Judaism and the Old Covenant could offer. *"The stories of Abraham, Moses, and others that are foundational to Judaism were created and/or given their final form in the 6th century BCE, following the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE. Some sources date the founding of Judaism to much later: at the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. This is because the biblical/Temple-based religion was characterized by sacrificial rituals, while the religion after the Temple's destruction (which continues today) is based more in synagogues, rabbis, and the home and has significantly different rituals."* <http://www.religionfacts.com/judaism/date-founded>

During this period under great pressure and persecution from Jews and false prophets who infiltrated a group of Christians some began to rethink their faith in Christianity and seriously thinking about, their return to Judaism. He warned them not to through-out their only hope of salvation. There was a discrepancy about the tradition of circumcision provided in the Mosaic Law which required the physical cutting of the fore-skin of the male child. On the other hand in accordance with the instruction given to Paul by God the physical circumcision was replaced by the circumcision of the heart. So these false prophets were on a propaganda or heretic agenda course to reject and oppose the New Covenant that requires the circumcision of the heart. Even though they also expected the Messiah as prophesied by the Prophets in the Old Testament, they rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah, because he was born in a manger and not majestically to lead them politically and victoriously in their battles with other nations.

(a) Paul reminded them repeatedly that Jesus Christ is the preeminent over the angels, over Moses, over the priesthood of the Old Testament; (Chapters 1-10: 18) and the New Testament is Greater than the old covenant, because Jesus was the perfect, permanent rather than the Old Testament sacrifices. He explained how important “faith” is and without it , it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 6: 11) faith is the things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1).It is superior to the works of the Old covenant. *”There can be no turning back to or continuation in the old Jewish system, which has been superseded by the unique priesthood of Christ. God's people must now look only to him, whose atoning death, resurrection and ascension have opened the way into the true, heavenly sanctuary of God's presence. To "ignore such a great salvation" (2:3) or to give up the pursuit of holiness (12:10,14) is to face the anger of the "living God" (10:31). Five times the author weaves into his presentation of the gospel stern warnings (see note on 2:1-4) and reminds his readers of the divine judgment that came on the rebellious generation of Israelites in the desert”* <https://www.biblestudytools.com/kjv/hebrews/>

Like Paul Peter also was cognizant of the false Prophets’ infiltration of the Christian churches so he decided to use his letters both, even though his perception might be a little different. His perception to dealing with this matter is to allow the early church do their home- work based on all they have learned and experienced from the Gospel as was preached to them. Thus *“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.”*

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-peter/passage/?q=2-peter+3:1-2> Peter seems to be saying them you have heard the Gospel there will be suffering but count your suffering as pure joy, because the reward is much greater than the suffering. Furthermore he is warning them that it is

incumbent on them to apply the word in their situation. “So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.” 2 Peter 12- 13; 15 Peter is determined to have the church to rely on the memory of the gospel that was previously preached to them inclusive, of trust, obedience, God and prayer, love each other as God loves them etc., because on that day when he comes back all sinners will be punished, because He is a just and righteous God. 2 Peter addresses the way to deal with problems that arise within the Church from false doctrines, and the importance of growing in grace and knowledge of truth using God's Word as the source. In their interest, Peter used the second epistle to fore warn them that he, Peter will soon die but before he passed into eternity he will see to it that they will be kept informed to keep their memory intact, because God had only saved eight people and destroyed the world back then, he even destroyed his own Son who became sin for us! Why do they think He was going to save them in their sinful state?

The book of John testifies to the authenticity of Jesus as the Son of God, 100 % man and 100% God. He knew him personally, interacted with him personally, his eyewitness to his ministry. John lays it out: “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. John perceived and warns against dangers of spiritual deception he warns the deceivers, antichrists, and transgressors who do not conform to the true doctrine of Christ. Those not biblically and doctrinally correct on the incarnation, the person, and work of Christ should be disinvited.

*“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive*

*ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1: 5-10 NIV)*

*The Book of 2 John is an urgent plea that the readers of John's letter should show their love for God and His son Jesus by obeying the commandment to love each other and live their lives in obedience to the Scriptures. The Book of 2 John is also a strong warning to be on the lookout for deceivers who were going about saying that Christ had not actually risen in the flesh.”*

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-2-John.html>

It appears that that the group that John was writing to was doing or living up to the principles of the Gospel but even then there were deceivers among them. Even some who were totally against the incarnated Christ and he speaks directly to them and requires that the church root them out.

As I stated above the same problems that existed in the early church still exist in the modern day. For example the Pharisaic rituals are still present in some Jewish synagogues, Roman Catholics and other Episcopal churches. The Pope in the eyes of the Roman Catholics is still recognized as the head of the Christian church. The lies, hypocrisy, greed and self-aggrandizement that were rampant in the early Christian church still exist today. The political corruption and the neglect of the poor still exist in our churches today and most regrettably the compromise of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

So as Christians, our responsibility is to continue to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance to a dying world, without fear or favor cognizant of the fact that Jehovah has the final say.

## References

Retrieved from the Internet

1. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/hebrews/>
2. <http://www.religionfacts.com/judaism/date-founded>
3. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/kjv/hebrews/>
4. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-peter/passage/?q=2-peter+3:1-2>
5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-2-John.html>
6. New International Version Bible