

STUDY PAK 2

THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE HUMAN AUTHORSHIP OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

“In truth, God alone knows who wrote the book of Hebrews”, Origen (oft quoted statement).

“We are convinced that the apostle Paul is the author of Hebrews, though it is equally true that “the value of no New Testament writing depends _____.”
~~ W. Graham Scroggie ~~

I. CONTROVERSY

There is more controversy about the human authorship of Hebrews than any other book of Scripture. Some suggested possibilities are.

- A. Barnabas (Renan, Bartlet, Tertullian).
- B. Apollos (Luther, Alford, Farrar).
- C. Silas.
- D. Philip.
- E. Aristion (referred to by ancient authors).

II. REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT PAUL IS THE HUMAN AUTHOR OF HEBREWS

- A. Hebrews was attributed to Paul by many ancient authors.
 - 1. By A.D. 150 Pantaenus was referring to Hebrews as _____
_____ to Paul.
 - 2. Adam Clarke lists roughly 80 men, councils, and groups between the 2nd and the 11th century that believed _____. These include Clement of Alexandria (194 A.D.), Dionysius (247 A.D.), Theognostus (282 A.D.), Methodius (292 A.D.), Pamphilus (294 A.D.), Archelaus of Mesopotamia (c. 301 A.D.), Hierax (302 A.D.), Eusebius of Caesarea (315 A.D.), Athanasius (4th century), Adamantius (380 A.D.), Cyril of Jerusalem (347 A.D.), Titus of Bostria in Arabia (362 A.D.), the council of Laodicea (363 A.D.), Epiphanius (368 A.D.), Basil (370 A.D.), Gregory Nazianzen (370 A.D.), Ephrem the Syrian and the churches of Syria (370 A.D.), Ambrose of Milan (374 A.D.), Diodorus of Tarsus (378 A.D.), Jerome (392), Theodore of

Mopsuestia in Cilicia (394 A.D.), Rufinus (397 A.D.), Chrysostom (398 A.D.), Augustine (399 A.D.), Severian of Gabala in Syria (401 A.D.), and Victor of Antioch (401 A.D.)

- B. Peter's statement in _____.
- C. The location from which Hebrews was written - Italy, Hebrews 13:24.
- D. Lack of any real evidence of any other author.
- E. The reference to Timothy - Hebrews 13:23. See Acts 16:1-3, 1 Corinthians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 3:2, Philemon 1:1.

III. WHY DIDN'T THE AUTHOR GIVE HIS NAME?

The Scripture does not answer this question. The same situation exists in 1 John.

IV. THE TITLE

Some ancient manuscripts have the title, _____ . The majority of ancient manuscripts have the title, _____ . The King James Bible translators chose to use the majority title.