

**The Purpose of the Letter to the Hebrew
Christians: Escaping Life Under Mosaic Law by
'So Great a Salvation'**

Scripture Reading:

Hebrews 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our understanding of the current New Covenant for the Church as distinct from the future New Covenant for Israel, we now come to the NT book of Hebrews.

Here we find the New Covenant for **the Church** mentioned five times and the New Covenant for **Israel** mentioned twice.

In order to correctly understand the mention of these two covenants in Hebrews, we just first understand the purpose of Hebrews.

- ◇ Directly addressed to those that the writer knew were believers
 - ◇ Hebrews 3:1,12; 10:19; 13:22

**Written to
“Brethren”**

Two False Views of the Identity of these Hebrew Believers

True believers who were in danger of losing their salvation. NO!

- Jn 6:36, Rom 8:29, Heb 12:6-8

Professing Christians who came 'part way' to Christ (cf Heb 6:6)

- Heb 6:1 - let us be carried on to maturity
- Heb 6:3 - we will do (however much) God allows
- Heb 6:4 - those who were once enlightened (by Holy Spirit conviction Jn 16:8-11)
 - "Tasted of the heavenly gift"
 - cf Heb 2:9, Jn 3:7 = new birth from above (KJV "again")

The Correct View of these Hebrew Believers

True believing Jewish Christians who are, or tempted to, draw back from living by grace to living their Christian lives by the Law



The expressed need to mature - Heb 6:1



Law contained no ability to make one mature - Heb 7:19, 10:1



The righteous are to live out from faith, as to a daily way of life - Heb 10:38, II Cor 5:7 (Law not out of faith - Gal 3:11-12)

The Correct View of these Hebrew Believers (continued)

Believers are encouraged to “draw near” - to God in our position in Christ:

- With a true heart
- In full assurance from faith
- Having our hearts (mind, will, and emotions) sprinkled from an evil conscience and having been washed bodily (i.e., our “person” – cf Jn 13:10)

CONCLUSION

- ◆ First century Hebrew Christians were experiencing pressure to withdraw from living by grace and returning to live under Law. But Gentile Christians are also confronted with this same problem today:
 - ◆ II Tim 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables”