



Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."-Ecclesiastes 12:13



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SHEPHERDS

*Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties*

DEACONS

*Roger Deem
Paul Portley
Gaylen Williams*

PREACHER

Phil McIntosh

TREASURER

Gaylen Williams

MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*Cherokee Home
For Children
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &
Family Services
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home
For Children
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen
Children's Home
San Benito, TX*

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM

Who Wrote the Book of Hebrews?

By Phil McIntosh



There are few concerns, among the serious and rational, regarding who wrote most of the books of the Bible. Many of the books state very plainly for themselves who wrote them. Ascertaining the writers of some books takes a little bit of digging and thought, while a few are simply up for debate. Perhaps the largest conundrum throughout the centuries has been whose hand was responsible for penning the book of Hebrews. There is much known about the book, and potentially, the writer from the contents of the book. People have throughout the ages posited various ideas as to who penned it; but, alas, there has never been any concrete answer agreed upon since the Bible does not provide us the specific answer (*Deut. 29:29*).

It is at this point we focus on the larger picture: *if God wanted us to know who wrote the book, He would have told us*. The pursuit of such information is interesting but is not necessary for one to obtain a good standing before the Almighty (*2 Pet. 1:3*). The goal of this week's article is not to "once and for all" answer the question. What we set out to do over the next few paragraphs is to examine some arguments from various positions and opinions regarding the variety of names assumed to be responsible. The information that follows is not original, rather a collection of assumptions and suppositions from others and reasons as to why they think the way they do.

What *do* we know? We know that the book/letter was written to Jewish Christians. The book is chocked full of Judaistic history, law, correlation, and reference. There are references to the old "fathers" and to the priesthood. What seems to be the case is that these Christians, who had endured persecution (*Heb. 12:4*), were flirting with the idea of going back to Judaism. The dating of the book seems to be sometime pre-AD 70, since there is no mention of the destruction of Jerusalem. This would have been a *monumental* issue to address if it had already happened since it forever altered the Jewish culture and religion, having obliterated their place of worship (which was the center of their life and culture) and the official genealogical system crumbling, along with their land being taken. In addition, the writer says that "*what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away*" (*8:13*) which could easily apply to the quickly approaching end of the Jewish way of life as they become the object of the ire of the Roman government. At that point, going back to Judaism would not rescue them from the persecution they were attempting to escape in Christianity, it could in fact increase it. The Bible teaches (including in the book of Hebrews) that the old law was designed to vanish away and was replaced with the law of faith and Christ. One could not *actually* just "go back" to Judaism; God nailed it to the cross (*Col. 2:14*). However, from a practical standpoint, going back to Judaism would prove painful and difficult.

Who Wrote It?

The argument for Paul:

Paul is far and away the favorite for most as the writer of Hebrews. He had extensive knowledge of the Jewish faith and history, himself being a Jew. The book says it was written "from Italy" (*13:24*) and it mentions certain his "chains" (*10:34*)- both of which would have easy application to the apostle Paul. Clement of Alexandria (2nd century) said that Paul was the writer of Hebrews. The evangelist Timothy is mentioned as being a traveling companion in the closing moments of the book and Timothy is well known for his connection to Paul. It is argued that the closing of the book is similar to Paul. Another says that it was originally circulated as one of Paul's letters. Finally, one of the arguments that seems to be frequent is that the style of the book itself is similar to the writing of Paul. The argument against Paul can be found in a few statements. One, in chapter 2, the writer says that the salvation spoken from the Lord was "*was confirmed to us by those who heard Him*" (*2:3*)- indicating someone who had heard the gospel from another individual, not directly from the Lord as Paul did (*Gal. 1:12*). Also noted is that Paul's usual salutation is missing from the end of the book, though those who disagree posit that it was because Paul was concerned about how it would be

received since he did not enjoy the great reputation amongst the Jewish people that he did amongst the Gentile. A final estimation by some that Paul did not write the book is that Paul frequently used compound titles for the Lord, while the writer of Hebrews used simple ones.

The argument for Apollos:

One name mentioned is the man who was taught the word of God more accurately by Aquilla and Priscilla in Acts 18. He was from Alexandria, which was an enormous center of both Jewish and Christian activity in those days. Apollos was clearly highly educated in the Jewish scriptures and was an outstanding defender of the scriptures and the Lord (*Acts 18:28*). Paul knew Apollos and conversed with him. Apollos was highly involved in the work of the early church and could possibly fit the bill for a non-Pauline writer. Of ancient opinion, Origen (AD 185-253) said that Paul likely did not himself write the book.

The argument for Barnabas:

We know this man well, do we not? He was the bold and faithful servant of God who entreated the early church to accept and love Paul (*Acts 9:26-28*). Barnabas, whose original name was Joses (or Joseph), was a Levite who was given the name by which we know him by the apostles (*Acts 4:36*). Being a Levite, he certainly would have had an extensive knowledge and great respect for the roles of priest as was discussed in depth in Hebrews. Barnabas is very well known for being a traveling companion and fellow preacher with Paul on his journeys so the content of the book and even his sermons might have been similar to Paul. On ancient opinion, Tertullian (AD 160-220) said that Barnabas penned this book. It has been noted that the ending of the book (*13:22*) says it is a letter of “encouragement” and Barnabas is known for such. However, the word in Greek also appears in seven of Paul’s epistles, so perhaps it is a weak argument.

The argument for Silas:

Silas, again, is well known because of his association with Paul. We meet him before Paul and Barnabas’ famous divergence, and he became Paul’s traveling companion and fellow ambassador for Christ (*Acts 15:36-40*). Silas, being a Jew, would have the requisite knowledge of Jewish history and understanding regarding the old law and the priesthood. He also was a companion of Timothy, who was mentioned in chapter 13. Further, we know that Silas was in Rome (from where Hebrews was most likely written), because Peter wrote that his letter was penned by the hand of Silvanus (*1 Pet. 5:12*), and the end of that final chapter indicated that they were currently in Rome. Silas is known by this name (Silvanus) as a fellow servant of God and writer of messages in Paul’s epistles too (*2 Cor. 1:19*).

There are various arguments, cases, positions, discussion, thoughts, opinions, and even contentions that exist as to who actually picked up that ancient pen and pressed it to that ancient parchment. Hebrews is an amazing book which clearly portrays the gospel of Christ and the law of faith as having superiority over the old law, since it is based on better promises and has, at its head, the Lord and Messiah Jesus. The book of Hebrews teaches us to hold on to what we’ve heard and never let it go (*2:1*), the importance of gathering together and worshipping as the church (*10:24-25*), and the necessity of dropping the weight of sin and looking to Jesus for guidance (*12:1-2*). This is a book that, if you have not read lately, you should endeavor to do so posthaste. As to who wrote the book? Well, it is a writer. You should take notice that not once in this article have I used the term *author*. The author is God and His Holy Spirit, through the pen of some first century Christian. In the end, that is all that truly matters, because “all scripture is given by inspiration of God (*2 Tim. 3:16*) and the “scripture cannot be broken” (*Jn. 10:35*).



Join us for a Ladies' Holiday
Potluck & Ornament Exchange
at the home of Creta Bales, on
December 8th, at 6:00 pm.
Please sign up on the ladies'
information board.



Sunday, December 11th, at 5 pm, in the
Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger foods.

Church Bowling

There will be a Church Bowling on Saturday,
December 17th, 12:00 pm, at Hallmark Lanes
Bowling Alley. (Everyone’s invited)

Holiday Baskets

Please join us as we prepare & distribute holiday baskets on Saturday, December 10th, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate to this effort, please see Lee or Natalie Fisher.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2- SARA RUMMEL
- 2- JESSIE TURNER
- 8- NATALIE FISHER
- 10- JUELZ GAITHER

- 12- MARTHA BELL
- 12- JAMES SEAY
- 14- PAUL PORTLEY
- 17- BRENDA SELLERS
- 18- BRITTNI GRIFFITH
- 20- BEVERLY WILLIAMS
- 20- JOSEPHINE SPEAR
- 20- ZACK PETTIES
- 24- MONICA MCLEAN
- 25- GAYLE WILSON
- 28- GAYLEN WILLIAMS

December Nursery Schedule

- 4- Josephine & Natalie
- 11- Beverly & Gayle
- 18- Victoria & Brenda
- 25- Natalie & Amanda

*We are in need of more ladies to help in the nursery. If you would like to be on the nursery list, please contact the office. Thank you!

December Cleaning Calendar

- May be done any time before the next Sunday.
- Please consult with your team leader for further questions.

Dec. 4-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda	18-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Yvonne Lois Marcella	Jan. 1-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Ruby
11-TEAM JAMES Kim-Marie Xavier Jaden Kingsford Barbara	25-TEAM LEE Natalie Derek Ken Tim	

ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022:

- ♦ ANNOUNCEMENTS: LEE FISHER
- ♦ 1ST PRAYER: JAMES SEAY
- ♦ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦ SCRIPTURE READING: BILL RAWLINGS
- ♦ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦ SERMON: PHIL MCINTOSH
- ♦ INVITATION SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦ SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: REGGIE BASS
- COMMUNION:
IVAN MCINTOSH & MICHAEL ROGERS
- ♦ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦ OFFERING:
IVAN MCINTOSH & MICHAEL ROGERS
- ♦ CLOSING SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦ CLOSING PRAYER: KEITH RUMMEL
- ♦ AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ♦ SECURITY: BRUCE BROWN & ROGER DEEM
- ♦ NURSERY:
JOSEPHINE SPEAR & NATALIE FISHER

SCRIPTURE READING

“An Ancient 3-Point Sermon”

Ezra 7:6, 8-9

“⁶ This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him.

⁸ And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹ For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.”

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & D.O.D. CIVILIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- We wish to welcome home Jessica Rogers from her deployment to Kuwait.
- Tracy Wilson's son, Zane, is in the class portion of flight school.
- Sara Rummel's son, Bryan Johns, is leaving for marine boot camp on December 12th.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS: PRAYER LIST:

- Brenda Sellers' mother is in the hospital due to fluid buildup.
- Martha Bell's sister is in the hospital recovering from surgery and had 10 pounds of fluid removed. Her doctors are trying to diagnose her heart problem and she is at great risk of a stroke.
 - Linda Deem has a cancerous spot on her cheek that will be removed.
 - Lesia Crockett is still experiencing pain as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
 - Ken Sellers had a PET scan Monday and is scheduled for colonoscopy on December 23rd.
 - Gayle Mende has requested prayers for Elma Robinson, who is recovering from RSV, and was moved from the hospital to a nursing home.

SYMPATHY: We wish to extend our sympathy to Joyce Brown and her family for the loss of her sister, Janet Simmons, on November 23rd. Her service was here at the building on Saturday.

- We wish to extend our sympathy to the Petties family in the passing of Brother Petties' aunt, Helen Petties.
- We wish to extend our sympathy for Rodney Carter and his family on the loss of his uncle, Otis Carter, on Monday night.

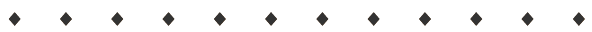
REJOICE: We rejoice that Grayson Bowles was baptized into Christ last Saturday night.

- We rejoice that Toni Mendez was baptized into Christ last Sunday night.
- We rejoice that Tash Poole has placed her membership with us.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME BOUND:

Rodney Carter's aunt (Mary Segler), James Garner & wife (Tammy), Donna Hines' stepmother, sister (Rhonda Miller) & niece (April Miller), Bill Rawlings' & his mother, Beverly Williams' sister-in-law (Cindy Fisher), Jim Dukes & family, former members (Connie Cruz) (Bobbie Knight), Judy Wall's husband (James), Michelle McIntosh's cousin (Nikki), Gary & Shirl Foster, Joyce Brown's nephew (Jon-Jon Simmons), Willard Jack Dunn, Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde), Martha Chafin, Tim Matter's wife (Elda) & brother (Michael), Josephine Spear & sisters (Rose & Patricia), brother-in-law (Kent) & friend (Iris), Linda Deem's nephew, Tanja, Natasha, & Tiffany Arch & Tanja's aunt, Amanda Petties' sister (Jewel) & nieces (Carrington & Moneisha Williams) & sister-in-law, Rufus Brown, Marcella Williams & brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford), Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt), Nada Miller, Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law (Raymond Flores), Billye Hughes, Mary McAnally's sister (Ann Ahrens), Gladys Driver, Jessie Turner, and Linda Walts.

Our Speaker Today Is Phil McIntosh



We want to especially welcome our visitors!

If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card from the back of the pew directly in front of you, and drop it in offering box as you leave. Thank you for your visit and please join us again!

BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With Our Preacher Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- ⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

To our visitors—Thank you for being with us today, and please come again!

CONTACT INFORMATION

ZACK PETTIES (elder): zpetties@yahoo.com

LEE FISHER (elder): fisherfam79@gmail.com

PHIL McINTOSH (pulpit minister):

kcofcpreacher@gmail.com

Office: 254-634-7373 or email us at: kcofc@hotmail.com

DECEMBER CALENDAR

7-Singing Night

7, 14-Ladies' Bible Class, 10:00 am, in the fellowship hall.

8-Ladies' fellowship at the home of Creta Bales, 6:00 pm.

10-Holiday Baskets, 9:30 am, in the fellowship hall.

11-Youth Devo, 5 pm, in the fellowship hall.

17-Church Bowling, 12 pm, at Hallmark Lanes.

20-Youth Outing at 1:00 pm.

21-Singing Class, 6 pm, in the auditorium.

26-Office will be closed.

28-Singing Night

Jan.2-Office will be closed.