

**WCCC 1992**

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**But We See Jesus**

## **Preface**

Thank God for giving us this opportunity that brothers and sisters can gather together before the Lord. Our theme this time is “But we see Jesus.” Last night, our brother already started his sharing based on Matthew chapters 16-18. If the Lord permits, I would like to fellowship with brothers and sisters based on the Book of Hebrews.

### **The Background of the Time Period of the Book of Hebrews**

We know that the Book of Hebrews is a message of a transition in time. The Law has already become past, and grace has already arrived. Our Lord has already come to this world. He not only had spent 33 years on the Earth, but had also went onto the cross and accomplished the work of redemption. Then He was resurrected from the dead, ascended through the heavens, and seated on the right hand of the One Most High. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent onto the Earth, and the 120 disciples was baptized in One Spirit into One Body. From that time onward, the Church started to testify for the Lord on the Earth.

At that time, even though the Church was persecuted and opposed by the Jews, in the sight of the Roman Empire, the Church is but another branch of Judaism. The Church was still until the protection of the Roman Empire and considered legal. However, when it came to the year AD 64, Roman Emperor Nero set a fire to burn down the City of Rome. We did not know why he would do such a thing. Maybe he wanted to burn down the old city and rebuild a greater city. However, when he burned down Rome, the majority of the people opposed him. In order to pacify the people at that time, he needed to look for a scapegoat, and very conveniently, he found the Christians. He said the fire was set by the Christians, and arouse the hatred of the people. From that time on, the Roman Empire started to persecute Christianity. Whoever call themselves Christians have already offended the roman laws. Christianity was then different from Judaism. This also aligned with the will of God, as Christ cannot remain bounded by Judaism forever. Even though the gospel was first preached by the Jews, the gospel cannot be limited to stay among the Jews. Therefore, God used this incident to release Christianity from Judaism. According to the predestined

will of God, and in order to lead us into the abundance of Christ, we must be freed from Judaism. Therefore, in the year AD 70, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Temple was torn down. This was a time of loss of Judaism. From that time on, Christianity had to be completely separate from Judaism. This was actually the good intention of God, for He is to lead us into the abundance of Christ, free from the bondage of any earthly religion.

However, when God was working on the earth, the enemy Satan also hastened to work. Therefore, persecution came. Many Jews who have come to Christ, because they were not very clear about the Lord, and not very clear about the visions, at the time of setbacks, they were tempted inside with the mind of returning to Judaism, because it is safer to return to Judaism. Therefore, God wrote the Book of Hebrews through His apostle. The Book of Hebrews was addressed to a group of people at that time who had turned to Christ from Judaism as an encouragement. On one hand, there were encouragements. On the other hand, there were warnings, in the hope that they might walk upright on the way of the Lord and enter into the fullness of Christ. This is roughly the background of the Book of Hebrews.

### **Religions are fake; Only Christ can satisfy the heart of people**

Brothers and sisters, today, we are also at a time of transition. The period of grace is about to end, (We call the time period from the time our Lord came to the earth to accomplish salvation to even now, a time period of about 2000 years, the period of grace) and the time period when God's Kingdom of the Heavens descends onto the earth is arriving, and our Lord is returning soon. During this time period of transition, the Spirit of God must hasten His work on the earth. He will free us from all kinds of bondage, so that we may enter into Christ, into the abundance of Christ. But brothers and sisters, at the same time, our enemy Satan is also hastening its works, using all kind of tricks to deceive the children of God, so that the children of God would return to the bondage of religious systems again. Even though today we had not struggled to come out of Judaism, we are, in principle, freed from religion. We ought to be free from all kinds of organization, system and institutions and enter into Christ.

Judaism was originally from God's revelations. God revealed Himself to the original Israelites, so it was lively at that time. However, through the changes of time, this revelation has slowly evolved to an earthly religion. A lively revelation eventually became a dead system. If we look from historical perspective, when had the revelation of God become Judaism? Strictly speaking, it happened when the Israelites were taken captive to Babylon. When Israelites were taken captive to Babylon, a group of scribes and pharisees rose up. They were there to interpret the revelations of God. And then, generations after generations, people rose up to interpret the previous interpretations. Interpretations upon interpretations, and eventually, these had become the traditions of men, and the traditions of

the fathers. The revelations of God was completely buried, brought into a lifeless religious system, causing many to be bounded.

At that time, why would this group of Jews who had believed in the God still want to return into Judaism? It was because they could have a sense of security. There were things and matters that are visible and touchable. There was a center. There were some ordinances. There were some rituals of worship, a priesthood and a mediatorship. These things seemed visible and touchable with hands. The spiritual matters were instead intangible. They could not touch with their physical bodies, so they were not clear about the visions, and they did not understand the will of God. They did not know Christ enough, so it was easy for them to be tempted by the flesh and return to the religious system of man.

Today, we are facing the same crisis. We are at the end times. When everything becomes very tense, it is easy for us to be tempted. If we are not sure of the vision of Christ, it is easy for us to be attracted back to the religious world. Today, Christianity has already become a religious world. It has its ordinances. It has its worship locations. It has mediatorship of priesthood, and these bring people a sense of security. Therefore, on our way of following the Lord, at times of difficulty, when we hear about matters that we cannot interpret, it is easy for us to feel discouraged, and very easily we want to go back to the religious world, because it feels much easier. However, even if we return to the religious world, we cannot feel satisfied inside, for our hearts can only be satisfied with Lord Jesus Himself. Therefore, we feel heavily burdened inside, and would like to spend this time to not look at anything else, but to look at our Lord alone. May our Lord open the eyes of our hearts, so that we can see this Lord of ours. If we can truly see Him, we shall be free.

If the Lord wills, in these 4 mornings, we would like to see 4 things: first, the identity of Jesus; second, the ministry of Jesus; third, the position of Jesus; fourth, the calling of Jesus.