

Sunday 10th October 2021 from L Fairweather

*The book of Hebrews is usually attributed to Paul, the great scholar and missionary for Christ throughout the Mediterranean, after his dramatic conversion from Orthodox Jew to Christian Leader, on the road to Damascus.

*At that time early Christians were under very close scrutiny for their belief system and practices, by various Pagan followers, who admired the Jewish religion, while not being adherents to it.

*Jewish worship ceremonies and background of the Red Sea Crossing with God's delivery of the 10 Commandments at Mt Sinai, impressed others, but what did Christians have?

* Paul uses this address to to the Hebrew Christians to arm them that the essential difference between them and the Jewish religion is that Jesus replaces all 10 commandments with one, that is," Love God and love your neighbor, as much as you love yourself."

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* Our verses from Job 23 remind us that Job was a very rich man whom Satan declared, was only loyal and loving to God because God had richly blessed him. Job was not an Israelite but a man from Aram, now called Syria but he worshipped God and obeyed his laws.

* Job suffered ill health and loss of friends who thought that Job must have committed secret sin because God would not let him suffer so, unless he were guilty. Although Job constantly asks God why he is made to suffer so, declaring his innocence of any wrong doing, Job never turns his back on God and later declares in chapter 19,

* "I know that my Redeemer lives and at the end he will stand on this Earth. My flesh may be destroyed, yet from this body will I see God." What faith under pressure! Because of Job's great endurance, God blesses him and makes him prosper once more.

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* In our reading from Mark 10 Jesus shows us that "nothing is hidden, nothing " by the way in which he addresses the rich, young ruler. The young man knows that in spite of all his life's blessings, something is missing, so he seeks out Jesus, hoping to be reassured that he won't need to adjust his lifestyle in any way, in order to follow Jesus.

* Jesus makes the young man think, by pointing out that even though he claims to have obeyed the law and prophets since childhood, his unhealthy attachment to his wealth and position has caused him to bypass the first 2 commandments and number 10, as well.

* Jesus catalogues 5. Honouring parents. 6. Killing no one. 7. Being faithful in marriage. 8. Not stealing. 9. Giving false statements. BUT He purposely does not mention 1. No other gods but me. 2. No idols. 10. Covetousness. He being jealous of other peoples' worldly goods, because Jesus knows that the young man worships his money and status, idolizes his position in life and by a life spent accumulating wealth he no doubt has a fair chunk of envy and acquisitiveness in his character which he is not prepared to turn his back on.

* So sadly, he chooses to walk away and reject Jesus!

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* Perhaps we, too, have a secret God, object of worship, something that we have wanted for many years and finally received/achieved!

* If we commit it and it's use for God and the kingdom , it's fine but if it is an object of worship and a distraction from our walk with Jesus, then remind ourselves that, from God,

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* "Nothing is hidden, nothing!"

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* Leone Fairweather