



---

# WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

---

*Training Laborers for His Harvest*

J. Michael Lester

BI 306 – Hebrews

I. Course Description

This class is a study of the background and basic interpretation of the book of Hebrews. Special emphasis will be placed on the superiority of Christ's priesthood to the Old Testament institutions. In fact, the theme of this book is to demonstrate that Christ is greater than the angels, the Mosaic Law, the Aaronic (Levitical) priesthood, and any other **entity that would be considered "great."** Along the way, we will learn the importance of going on to perfection or maturity.

II. Course Objectives

This class is not designed simply to fill your head with facts. According to Paul, knowledge **"puffeth" up. It is not my intention to feed your pride or selfish ambitions. In this class we** study the foundational doctrine of Christology. The portraits of Christ in this book are limitless, yet we should do our best at attempting to **master each "portrait."** Therefore, your approach to this class should not be motivated solely from an academic perspective.

*As a result of this course, students should be able to:*

1. Outline the three major sections of this book
2. Correlate the New Testament truth from this book with that of the Old Testament shadow given in Leviticus
3. Identify types of Christ in the Old Testament and how they reveal both his character and His work
4. Posit a convincing argument for Pauline authorship
5. Identify the recipients of this letter
6. Correctly interpret the five warning passages of this letter based on who the recipients are
7. Compare and contrast the priestly ministries of Aaron and Melchizedek and how each relates to Christ
8. Quote from memory 12 passages from this book
9. Teach eternal security from chapter 6 and 10
10. Pass a comprehensive exam with at least 90% accuracy

III. Course Requirements

This class involves more than simply listening to lectures given in class. There is an outside responsibility that falls upon you, the student:

- a. Obtain a copy of the book, *Exploring Hebrews*, by John Phillips. Each section should be read carefully and methodically. You are to write a 1-page evaluation of this book. Additionally, please list 10 dynamic principles that you have learned in reading through this book. These can be emailed. DUE MARCH 7, 2011
- b. Download a set of notes from <http://lester.wcbc.edu>
- c. Download a free copy of this book from <http://books.google.com>
  - i. *The Epistle to the Hebrews* – The First Apology for Christianity
  - ii. An Exegetical Study by Alexander B. Bruce, 1899
- d. Be ready for a quiz each day.



**West Coast  
Baptist College**

4010 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535  
661.946.2274 • [www.wcbc.edu](http://www.wcbc.edu) • Dr. Paul Chappell, President

- e. Learn the memory verses. The Word of God is much more powerful than the notes of a teacher. In your endeavor to pass the class, do not forget that this is a *Bible* class – learn the Word of God. These verses are as follows:
- Hebrews 1:8
  - Hebrews 2:3
  - Hebrews 2:9
  - Hebrews 4:12-16
  - Hebrews 6:1
  - Hebrews 10:3,4
  - Hebrews 10:12
  - Hebrews 10:18-20
  - Hebrews 10:25
  - Hebrews 11:1, 6
  - Hebrews 12:1-3
  - Hebrews 13:15
- f. The project is to be chosen by the student. Choose one of the options below:
- i. Write two 5-page papers on the following two subjects:
    - a. The Superiority of Christ
    - b. Textual Research (choose one): Heb 2:1-4; or Hebrews 6:1-4
    - c. Each report is to be TYPED, single-spaced (double-spaced between paragraphs.) The font is to be no larger than 12 Times (or Times New Romans). Turn in with a cover page, a blank page for grades and comments, and in a NICE folder. These reports should include:
      - i. Outline,
      - ii. Bibliography page,
      - iii. Minimum of 4 sources other than the Bible,
      - iv. Footnotes are to be respectable sources. You should look for primary sources rather than secondary sources. Additionally, the “dot.com” sites and Wikipedia would not be considered respectable resources.
      - v. Footnotes or endnotes
      - vi. Single-spaced text with double-space between paragraphs.
      - vii. Logical progression of your own thought
        1. Do not simply cut and paste verses in an attempt to fill the required amount of pages. To write out verse after verse in your paper is not *spiritual*, it is *laziness*.
        2. Both are due 10/25 and will not be accepted late. Plan the work and work the plan.
  - ii. You may also choose to write a 7-page paper on the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ. Information should be primarily drawn from chapters 7-10. *The report should include the same criteria as listed above.*
  - iii. You may also choose to do a topical paper from Hebrews 11 discussing the role of faith in the lives of the individuals mentioned. Comparisons should be made as well as contrasts as you identify the kind of person God is able to use. This paper should be no less than 7 pages as well. *Additionally, it would have the same requirements as those laid out in option 1.*

Whichever option you choose to write, the due date is March 21. These are to be emailed to me before 5:00 at [mike.lester@lancasterbaptist.org](mailto:mike.lester@lancasterbaptist.org) or turned in at class time in a nice folder.

- g. Read through the book of Hebrews ten (10) times before the scheduled final exam. During the weekly quiz, you will be asked about your reading. Your reading will be a significant portion of your grading factors.

#### IV. Course Grading Factors

Inevitably, there will be those who look for the bare minimum to pass a course. In delineating **these factors, I am not advocating that you simply “try to get by.”** I believe each student is required by God to do his/her best. Your final grade will be an accumulation of the following factors:

- a. Quizzes
- b. Project
- c. Exams
- d. Notebook / Reading

#### V. Final Reminders

- You will be tested over your new memory verses at the end.
- REMEMBER that your assignments are to be the work of your own hand and done **on a collegiate level. College is not “glorified Sunday School.” There is an expected standard of excellence for you to strive toward.** Utilize proofreaders in your dorm or home. You cannot do this if you procrastinate until the end!
- If you will put the effort into this class, you will have a head start on many that are in the ministry today, but cannot biblically give a reason for the hope that is within them. If the Bible is truly your final authority, I hope that you will use the Bible to **defend and proclaim God’s truth to this generation.**
- Additionally, I will occasionally be posting new resources at this site:  
<http://lester.wcbc.edu>

#### VII. Policies to consider:

1. Academic Dishonesty:
  - Scholastic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or any other action that is not an honest participation in the learning process. By **enrolling in this course, you have agreed to WCBC’s guidelines for handling academic dishonesty.**
  - I have zero tolerance for plagiarism. Please cite your sources.
2. Classroom Civility:
  - As part of this class, you are an integral part of a learning community. Please be aware of your behavior and its effects on others. Talking, coming in late, leaving early, **sleeping in class, and being discourteous can all diminish classmates’ learning experiences.** Realize that everyone in this class might be in a position someday to recommend you professionally. Earn and keep their respect.
3. I hope you enjoy this course as much as I enjoy teaching it. If you have problems, questions, or just want to talk, I encourage you to contact me in person, on the phone, or via email. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! Please do not let small problems during a semester grow to a crisis at the end. It is always easier to repair anticipated difficulties than to untangle a mess!

#### Contact Info:

Email

[mike.lester@lancasterbaptist.org](mailto:mike.lester@lancasterbaptist.org)

Phone

661.946.4663 x163 (or 146)

Cell Phone

248.520.0615

Office Hours

In office every day until 5 (except Thursday)



4010 E. Lancaster Blvd. • Lancaster, CA 93535  
661.946.2274 • [www.wcbc.edu](http://www.wcbc.edu) • Dr. Paul Chappell, President