

APPLICATION

- Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What does this mean for your current situation? How may this change your perspective of your present and future?
- In what area/s of your life are you tempted to look for something “better” than Jesus? How can the truth of His supremacy help recenter your heart?
- Who in your life needs to hear about the “better” hope found in Jesus? How can you intentionally share the gospel with them this week?

PRAYER

- Praise Jesus for His unchanging nature. Thank God that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- Ask God for eyes of faith to see Jesus for who He is, especially as you endure hardship.
- Ask God to show you opportunities to serve in your local church or community and model the hope you have to those around you.

JESUS >

What Else Is Better?

WEEK 12

WARM-UP

- What’s one thing you can’t leave the house without? Why?
- What do you do when you’re weary or discouraged? Who do you turn to for comfort?
- Think of a major decision you made in the past. How did that decision affect your life?

WORD *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

HEBREWS 13:8

(Read also **HEBREWS 13:9–16, 20–21.**)

The book of Hebrews offers us insights about Jesus and what makes Him better: than the angels, Moses, and the Sabbath. Through this book we can also learn why Jesus is the better High Priest, offering Himself once and for all as the sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Now, believers can enter into a better covenant and ministry, and receive the invitation to lay hold of better things because of the hope of a better resurrection. Nothing is greater nor better than Jesus. Our Savior reigns supreme and is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What else could be better than this?



1 | There is nothing better than Jesus, therefore He is worthy of our trust.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

HEBREWS 13:8

The final chapter of Hebrews has the highest number of commands in the entire book, and the writer notes the truth these commands are hinged upon: Jesus Christ is unchanging. We can endure hardship with confidence because we can trust that Jesus will never change and He will fulfill all that He said He would do. Jesus' unchanging nature is every believer's supreme source of comfort. In a world where everything changes, how do you feel about the reality that Jesus is unchanging?

2 | There is nothing better than Jesus, therefore let us endure suffering with Him.

¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

HEBREWS 13:11-13

In the Old Testament sacrificial system (Leviticus 16:26-28), on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would select two goats: one to be used for purifying the sanctuary and its elements and the other to be the scapegoat. The blood of the sacrificed goat was brought into the sanctuary, while the remains were burned *outside the camp*. The idea of "outside" represented chaos, a place of uncleanness and sin. The

scapegoat, the one carrying the sins, was sent *outside* into the wilderness, representing the removal of sin from God's presence and the community. Jesus mirrored and exceeded this sacrifice when He was crucified outside Jerusalem to cleanse and purify the people *through his own blood*. Believers are now called to go *outside the camp*, which means identifying with Christ and sharing in His suffering. Knowing that Christ suffered the fullest extent of all possible rejection, what does it mean for us to *bear the reproach* Jesus bore?

3 | There is nothing better than Christ, therefore let us praise Him.

¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. **HEBREWS 13:15-16**

For us who, by faith, received all the "better" things because of Christ's sacrifice, the suffering we are experiencing now is the "worst" that we will ever experience. Our lives on earth are now set apart for fruitful labor for the Lord and His kingdom. For these, He is worthy of all our praise, which is expressed through our lips and our good works. What are some things you have done to honor God in response to the good He has done for you?