



Authorship of the Book of Hebrews by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Question: Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

Q: In all seriousness, here are a few reasons I find it virtually impossible that Paul wrote Hebrews.

1. **Paul always identified himself** at the beginning of his letters and left some sort of mark at the end to prove his authenticity (**2 Thess. 3:17**); both of these are missing from Hebrews.
2. **The style and vocabulary of Hebrews are very different** from Paul's (e.g., Paul uses the title "Christ Jesus" about ninety times in his thirteen letters, but is not used once in Hebrews). If you read the Greek of Hebrews vs. Paul's 13 letters, you can [sic] glaring differences. No one confuses the works of Mark Twain with John Grisham.
3. The most convincing proof against Paul's authorship is **the Hebrews author's claim to have heard the gospel from others (Heb. 2:3)**, something Paul flatly and indignantly denied (**Gal. 1:11-12**). This last point is perhaps the one argument I put the most stock in.

If any of you still believe in Pauline authorship, and especially if you find legitimate holes in my arguments, well then you're clearly communists."

Reply:

That was not written "in all seriousness" because he calls everyone who finds "legitimate holes in my arguments" "clearly communists!"
"Legitimate holes" cannot be dissed like he has done.

1. If, as most commentators have concluded, **Hebrews was written during the Jewish & Roman persecution of Christians**, Paul would not have wanted his identity on this letter to jeopardize those who received it. The **Book of Acts** clearly shows Jews pursuing him from city to city. His other Epistles were directed to the churches of Christ and Christians, specifically, while **Hebrews** was written for general circulation.

He confessed to hand-writing only 5 of his letters: **1 Corinthians 16:21**; **Galatians 6:11**; **Colossians 4:18**; **2 Thessalonians 3:17**; **Philemon 19**.

2. The **"style and vocabulary of Hebrews" are exactly Paul's!** He uses "Jesus Christ" (**10:10; 13:8,21**); "Jesus" (**2:9; 4:14; 6:20; 7:22; 12:2, 24; 13:12, 20**); "Christ" (**3:1, 6, 14; 5:5; 6:1; 9:11, 14, 24, 28; 11:26**).

In **Hebrews**, Paul is giving inspired commentary on the details (and lessons) of the Old Testament, therefore "the Greek of Hebrews" would include many words not commonly found in his previous 13 epistles. To even a casual reader, since the subject matter is different, the vocabulary would, of necessity, be different, also. I didn't know "Mark Twain with John Grisham" would be a comparison, because they are two different people, and that's not the same as comparing a person with himself when he is dealing with a different subject. The writer of this email should find a similar

comparison with an auto mechanic comparing a Ford Model T with today's Ford Fusion!

3. If his "most convincing proof against Paul's authorship" is **Hebrews 2:3**, then **he has erred, once again, by "not knowing the Scriptures"** (**Matthew 22:29**). **Hebrews 2:3** claims the "great a salvation" was "first" directly from the Lord, then "was confirmed to us by those who heard Him." Paul did not include himself in "those who heard" for he enters the Scripture history hearing Stephen's sermon (**Acts 6:7-8:3**). This is just as Jesus had predicted:

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word" (**John 17:20**).

The Apostolic miracles proved God was confirming this Gospel message until the Scriptures were completely written. Even through Paul,

The signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds (**2 Corinthians 12:12**).

Paul was part of the "confirmation" of the Gospel, but He never "received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ" (**Galatians 1:12**). **Hebrews 2:3** is not discussing the same thing as **Galatians 1:12**. **Hebrews 2:3** shows the source of the Gospel originated through the Lord and "earwitnesses" who have reported it, **Galatians 1:11-12** shows the source of the Gospel through Paul came directly by inspiration of God, but enabled him to "confirm" his message in the same manner as those who had heard the Lord teach it.

I hope the writer of this email will not close his mind to "legitimate holes" in his case. Some people's minds are like concrete: mixed and set!

— John T. Polk II, May 6, 2020