

A youth bible study on the letter to the Hebrews in the second half of the New Testament:

To be young is to be optimistic about life. To be young is many times to have eye flaps on, when only the role models worthy of imitation are being seen. To be young is to only see those that are 'more than' the others, the normal, the common man. The heroes. A hero mentality is to be young of spirit; if it wasn't so wouldn't half of Hollywood's movies be absolute? In short, they would be boring and out of touch.

In the letter to the Hebrews Jesus is this picture of the God-Man 'more than':

1. Jesus is more than the angels (Chapters 1&2),
2. Jesus is more than Moses (Chapter 3:1-6),
3. Jesus' Rest is more than the Rest of the Promised Land in the Middle East (Chapters 3:7-4:13)
4. Jesus is more than the Aaronic Priests and especially the High Priest (Chapters 4:14-7:28),
5. Jesus established a New covenant 'more than' the Sinai one (Chapter 8:1-10:18)

In the story of the Bible, and the cosmic war between good and evil, God and the devil, Jesus is the hero, bringing salvation and the heavenly Promised Land to His people.

For young people a few prominent lessons should pop out:

1. When Jesus' word is more than that of the angels,

*For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation [spoken by Jesus]? (Hebrews 2:2-3 NIV)*

then Jesus' word should be more than that of our peers. How shall we escape if we ignore God's word for the sake of our friends and cultural pressures?

2. When Jesus is more than Moses, who was part of God's House while Jesus actually built the house,

*Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. (Hebrews 3:3 NIV)*

then Jesus is more than the church or preacher etc., in today's terms. Don't understand me wrong, there's nothing wrong with the church, or preacher, per say, but only a relationship with them (and nothing else) will not get you to heaven. You need to know Jesus, in the church with the preacher, to get to heaven. Jesus has to be your life 24/7 and not only an hour or two every week.

3. When one is young rest is not as vital yet as when one is old and worn-out, but what about peace? We all want and need inner peace of ease, don't you? The inner peace of Jesus is rest, where stress and anxiety is left to Jesus.

*There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:9-10 NIV)*

Are you anxious about choosing a career, or how you'll find the right partner etc.?

4. Fortunately we don't have to slaughter an animal anymore to enter the presence of God. Fortunately the veil is torn and we may enter the most holy, heaven, through Jesus. God is only a simple prayer away and not on the other side of a whole lot of rituals and procedures one first needs to work through. Fortunately we can have a clear conscience of sin being forgiven and forgotten, once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal saviour and renounced our sins.
5. How do we renounce our sins? Easy, because Jesus' instituted a better covenant where the Holy Spirit lives in us and empowers us to love God and our neighbours with all of our hearts. Remember the sin of the New Testament is not, in the first place, what we do, but what we don't do. The New Testament sin is the sin of omission, not to love and do to others as you want them to do to you.

Is Jesus your hero? For the closing, please read chapter 11 and observe how faith in God turned normal people into heroes. You're young, become a faith hero of God, rather than a hero in the eyes of the world who is one day there and the next day/generation forgotten.