

And This Will We Do, If God Permits

An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**

Chapter 3: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Hebrews 1:1-4

16: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 1

WAOY Tuesday 01/20/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the Preeminence of Jesus Christ. Let's open our Bibles and read **Hebrews 1:1-4** together. (NASB)

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Someone once said that Jesus Christ came from the Bosom of the Father to the bosom of the woman. He put on humanity that we might put on Divinity. He became Son of Man so that we might become sons of God. He was born contrary to the laws of nature, lived in poverty, was reared in obscurity, and only once crossed the boundary of the land in which He was born... and that in childhood.

Jesus had no earthly wealth or influence and had neither training nor education in the world's schools. His relatives were inconspicuous and un-influential. Yet in infancy, He startled a king. In boyhood, He puzzled the learned doctors. In manhood, He ruled the course of Nature. He walked on the billows and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services. He

never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the world could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

Jesus never wrote a song; yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters put together. He never founded a college; yet all the schools together cannot boast of as many students as He has. He never practiced medicine; and yet He has healed more broken hearts and shattered lives than all the doctors through history combined. This is Jesus the Christ: the Star of astronomy, the Rock of geology, the Lion and Lamb of zoology, the Harmonizer of all discords, the Healer of all diseases. Throughout history, great men have come and gone; yet Jesus Christ lives on. Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not seduce Him. Death could not destroy Him. The grave could not hold Him.

As I told you last time, everything about this Epistle of **Hebrews** is about Jesus. The entire Book of **Hebrews** is about tying in the Old Testament symbols, signs, types, and shadows into the very Person of Jesus Christ, so that we may see Jesus, and so we may know Jesus, and so we may hear Jesus... because in these last days, unlike how He did in the past, God is now speaking to us through His Son. In the Old Testament, God spoke to the fathers by the prophets. The Bible tells us that He did so in various ways. But now, God says that He is speaking to us through His Son. The Holy Ghost is signifying that things have now changed from being partial to full... from being in a shadow to being in the bright light. And over the last several broadcasts, I have tried to show you the great contrast between the way God spoke in times past to the way that God is speaking today.

First, there were many different mouths that God spoke through in the Old Testament. One succeeded the other. Now God speaks through one Voice: Jesus Christ. The Old Testament Prophets lived in different periods of time and they gave out God's Revelation in various manners: similitude, visions, and symbols. Each Prophet had his own individual gift and ability and character. Their stature and their capacity varied. But now God speaks through His Son, Jesus Christ, in one Voice and in one style and in one time.

The Prophets were great men, to be sure. But they were all sinful men who had a need to be saved. Today, God speaks through His sinless Lamb Jesus Christ Who has no need to be saved, but is in fact the Savior Himself. Another interesting truth is that none of the Prophets

possessed the Spirit of God *constantly*. The Spirit came upon them but then left. God the Holy Ghost fell and then lifted. He moved and then He stopped. But today, God's Son has the Spirit without measure, not in part but in fullness. And now because of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God comes to us too, and it comes to abide inside of us forever.

Although the Prophets spoke great things, many times they themselves didn't even understand what they were saying or talking about. They spoke in mysteries. But now the mysteries are made known; the power is unleashed; the glory is unveiled; the anointing comes without hindrance; the understanding of the fullness of the Godhead is revealed in Jesus Christ; and this understanding is now ours to know, love, possess, and cherish.

Even though these men saw and spoke about great things, they only spoke *about* the Truth, because they themselves were not the Truth. They spoke *about* God, but they were not God. They spoke *about* the Glory, but they were not the Glory. John the Baptist said, "**I am not that light, but I come to bear witness of that Light**". But Christ didn't come to speak *about* God. Christ *is* God; Christ is Deity; Christ is Holy; and Jesus Christ is that Light. Please turn with me and read **John 1:1-14**.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁶ There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

⁸ He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

⁹ There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

So what we see is that all the Prophets spoke *about* Jesus. But now we can hear directly *from* Jesus Himself. Now let's read **Hebrews 1:1&2** again together.

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

The writer is telling these first-century Jews, "*It is good that you heard the prophets; it is good that you listened to the fathers; it is good that you understood the angels; it is good that you had your dreams and your visions. But today, right now, God is speaking to 'he that hath an ear to hear' through His Son, Jesus Christ.*"

The writer was in no way minimizing what God had spoken through the Prophets. No, he was simply elevating what God was speaking now through His Own Son.

So I want to ask you, those of you hearing this on radio today, do you hear Jesus? Are you listening to what Jesus is saying? Do you see Jesus? Do you obey Jesus? Do you serve Jesus? Do you follow Jesus? Do you delight yourself in Jesus?

You see, dear friends, there is a fantasy going around today that sounds something like this, "*I love the Lord, I just don't serve Him.*" And there is a similar fantasy that sounds something like this, "*I love Jesus the Man, but I don't like what He said.*" I call these two statements *fantasies* because they are in fact fairy stories; they are not true; they are, in fact, lies. These statements exist only in the corrupt minds of sinful people who want to feel better about themselves, but who are falling very short of the Glory of God.

We have to understand, dear friends, that *loving* Jesus is the same thing as *obeying* Jesus. "Loving" Jesus without obedience is just cheap talk. You see, if Jesus is not worthy of you obeying him, then he isn't worthy of your love; and if Jesus is infinitely worthy of your love,

then He most certainly is worthy of your obedience. And likewise it is impossible to love Jesus without loving both Who He is and what He said. You cannot separate Jesus the Man from Jesus the Word.

This is because everything about God and Jesus and the Holy Ghost is about the Word. Everything about following Jesus is about obeying the Word. Everything about serving Christ is about living in accordance with the Word. In fact, no one can honestly know Jesus apart from His Word. No one can belong to Jesus and be separated from His Word. From the very beginning, it was the Word of God that came forth to guide and direct Man; and it was the Word that was challenged by Satan; and it was the Word that was disobeyed; and today, some 6,000 years since Man was made in the image and likeness of God, it is the Word of God that is still in dispute, and still haggled over, and still rejected by millions.

And yet at the same time, it is this same Word that is still loved and still honored and still revered and still obeyed by millions.

And it has always been this way.

Isaiah 55:11

**¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.**

Isaiah 66:2

**² “...But to this one I will look,
To him who is humble and contrite of spirit,
and who trembles at My word.**

Jeremiah 23:29

²⁹ “Is not My word like fire?” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?

John 5:24-25

²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming *and now is*, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

John 8:31&32

³¹ “...If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine;
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

© 2008- 2009 by the Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from the *New American Standard Bible* © 2006 (NASB) by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse-by-verse study of the Epistle of **Hebrews**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you, without cost or reimbursement to us, with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of the Covenant of Peace Church, and this complete copyright statement must be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.