

**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**  
24: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 9

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WAOY Friday 01/30/09

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 continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the Preeminence of Jesus Christ. So let's open our Bibles and read **Hebrews 1:1-4** 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.**  
**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.**

Now on the last broadcast, we were looking at the seven *excellencies* that the writer of **Hebrews** shows us in the second half of verse two and all of verse three. So let's read those verses again together.

**2 ...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,**

Now in these two verses we can see seven very powerful excellencies about Jesus that we need to examine very closely. Those seven excellencies are:

1. His Heirship
2. His Creatorship
3. His Radiance
4. His Being
5. His Administration
6. His Sacrifice
7. His Exaltation

And on the last broadcast we were looking at the second *excellency* that the writer of **Hebrews** gives to us... and that is the Creatorship of Jesus Christ. And today, I want to continue to look at that second excellency by reading **Hebrews 1:2** again together.

**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.**

Now as we went over last time, it pleased God to use Christ to make all things, and it pleases God yet to allow Christ to be the One through whom all things consist. Not only did God use Jesus to create all things; not only does God *still* use Jesus to hold all things together; it also pleased God the Father to set up Jesus as the Head of the Church. Please look at **Colossians 1:18-29**:

**18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

**19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**

**20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

**21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,**

**22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—**

**<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.**

**<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.**

**<sup>25</sup> Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,**

**<sup>26</sup> that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,**

**<sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

**<sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.**

**<sup>29</sup> For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.**

I tell you that there has never been anyone like Jesus. He is the One and Only of the Father. He is the most unique Person who ever lived. He is the Son of God and the Son of David and the Son of Man. He is the Lily of the Valley, and the Bright and Morning Star. He is the Rose of Sharon and the "fairest of ten thousand to my soul". He was Adam's covering, Noah's ark, and the ram caught in a thicket by his horns. He was Abraham's tithe Collector and Joseph's Promise. He was Moses' Angel and Prophet. He was David's Shield and Buckler, and his High Tower. He was Solomon's Wisdom and *He whom his soul loved*. He was the Star that brought the kings; He was the promised Seed.

Jesus is the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the world. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no man comes to the Father except through Him. He fulfilled the Old Covenant Promises. He fulfilled the Prophecies; He fulfilled the Word of God; He fulfilled the Law of God. In Jesus and in Jesus alone dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, *bodily*. He is the Man who lived and died and rose again, and who ascended up on high... and He is the One who sits at the right Hand of the Father even now to make intercession for us.

Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb; He is both the First and the Last. He is both the Alpha and the Omega; He is both the Beginning and the End; He is both the Savior and the Judge; and He is both the Agent by which God created all things and the Heir of all things that God created.

I tell you that God has given Jesus a Name that is above every other name, and that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow; at the Name of Jesus every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. And I tell you that Jesus is the Head of the Church. And in His Church that He bought and paid for with His own Blood, He is to have the preeminence. He alone is to be worshipped and He alone is to be adored. He alone is to be magnified, and He alone is to be glorified, and He alone is to be honored; He alone is to be the focus of all that we do.

And I tell you that very soon Jesus is going to get up off His Throne, and He is going to get on a white horse... and the day is coming that all traffic will stop, and all business will stop, and all commerce will stop; all governments around the world will stop, and all wars will stop; and the Eastern sky will split in two, and Jesus Christ will come back to this earth with ten thousands of his saints. And he will be wearing a vesture and a garment that has been dipped in Blood. And on His vesture and on His Thigh, He will have a Name written, *King of all the kings and Lord of all the lords*. And Jesus Christ will return to this earth as Sovereign Lord. And He will sit down on his throne as God of the whole earth, and He will rule the world with a rod of iron.

I tell you that we need to love this Jesus; we need to serve this Jesus. We need to honor this Jesus, and we need to obey this Jesus, and we need to lift Him higher than *everyone* else and higher than *anything* else. And we need to understand that Jesus sits on the Throne of the Church, and we need to bow before this King and we need to cast all our crowns down at His Feet. We need to understand that in the Church, and among believers, **Jesus Christ has the Preeminence**.

Now the word “preeminence” has a very significant meaning. For Jesus to have the preeminence means that Jesus has *a high status or importance owing to a marked superiority*. So for Jesus to be preeminent is for Jesus to be markedly superior to everyone and everything else... not just some things, but everything.

In other words, for Jesus to have the preeminence as **Colossians 1:18** says, Jesus must be marked superior to the angels of Heaven and to Abraham, the friend of God... to Moses the lawgiver... to Joshua and to David the King.

So this term does not mean that Jesus was a nice guy or that he is to be honored in the same way that all great men are honored. No, the word “preeminence” means that Jesus is personally *superior* to everyone else, even angels. And just who do you suppose is superior to Moses and David and even the angels of Heaven? No one but God.

I need to make another distinction here in the time that I have left. The command of **Colossians 1:18** that in the Church, Jesus Christ is to have the preeminence, is not the same thing as saying that Jesus comes first. Many times people say that we need to “put Jesus first”. But that is not the same thing as saying that Jesus is to have the preeminence. You see, when Jesus is just “first”, that puts attention on who or what is *second*. And the connotation of that phrase becomes that we can do our “Jesus thing” first and get it out of the way, so that we can do what is *second*. And many times what is second is what we really want to do in the first place; it is what we really desire and what we really love. But because we are so good and spiritual, we would never put that thing *ahead* of Jesus. So we put Jesus first by going to Church early so we can get Jesus over and done with, so we are then free to do what we really wanted to do anyway like go camping or watch the game.

So if you don't already know this, let me be the first to tell you that this is not what Paul meant when he said, **that in all things Jesus Christ might have the preeminence**. No, this does not mean that Jesus is first. It means that Jesus is *superior* to you and all your dreams and all your ambitions and all your other plans; and that since Jesus is superior... since He is more important than anything else and anybody else... we might well need to adjust our plans and be inconvenienced by this Jesus, and be imposed on by this Jesus, and be interrupted by this preeminent One - to the degree that we no longer live our lives as we see fit by periodically tipping our hat to Jesus and throwing Him a quarter when we can afford to. No, but that we actually view Jesus as being better than us, and more important than our own breath, and more valuable than every single one of our earthly possessions. He is lovelier than our wives and more vital than our army and more precious

than our own children. Preeminent means that Jesus is so glorious and so valuable and so beautiful to us, that our love for Him and our love from Him makes every other kind of love - even the love for parents or wives or children or country - look like hate *by comparison*.

Jesus being preeminent means that He is first, alright; but it also means that Jesus is second, and fifth, and ninth, and that we ourselves and our own agendas and our own plans never even come into the equation. So you would never consider putting Jesus first in the sense that you get Jesus over with so you can go to Church this Sunday morning and then stay home this Sunday night to watch the Super Bowl. No truly saved people would ever put the idol of football ahead of Jesus like that. And true Churches who give Jesus the preeminence would never cancel their Sunday night service to feed the carnal lusts of lukewarm men and allow them to miss Church so they can watch the game and eat chili and call that godly fellowship. Surely we can see how many have lost their first Love and how Jesus is really not preeminent among them.

No, Jesus being preeminent means that you are willing to be joyfully “inconvenienced” by this radical Salvation that demands and expects everything from those whom Jesus has bought and paid for.

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.

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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.