

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
25: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 10

WAOY Monday 02/02/09

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: the Creatorship of Jesus Christ. And today I want to begin to look at the third “excellency”... the **Brightness or the Radiance of Jesus Christ**. So let’s look at the first part of **Hebrews 1:3** again together:

3 And He is the radiance of His glory ...

Now the word “brightness” (*radiance* NASB) that was used here in verse three comes from the Greek word *augasma*, which means *to send forth light*. And this excellency represents Jesus as being the physical manifestation of God Himself. In other words, Jesus Christ is the brightness of the Glory of God. Jesus expresses God to us.

Now the Bible says that no man hath seen the Father, yet in **John 14: 6-9**, we read these words of Jesus.

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

⁷ If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

And as I have told you before, just as you cannot separate the *Words* of Jesus from the *Person* of Jesus, you cannot separate Jesus from God. We must know that the end result of anyone separating the *Words* of Jesus from the *Person* of Jesus is that sin is always condoned, and every attempt at separating Jesus from God results in Jesus being minimized.

You see, when anybody rejects what Jesus *says*, they are in fact rejecting Jesus Himself. When we accept what Jesus says, we are accepting Jesus. So for anyone to say that they love Jesus Christ and then live a life that denies His Word is to be living a lie. There is no such thing as anyone loving Jesus the Christ outside the acceptance, the honoring, the loving, and the obeying of that which Jesus *said* out of His own Mouth, and what others said who were inspired by the Spirit of Jesus to say.

In other words, to say that you love Jesus Christ and are saved and are going to heaven, and yet live a life that is contrary to what the Scriptures say and teach, is to be in terrible deception. You simply cannot separate the Person of Jesus from the Words of Jesus.

So it is also true about Jesus and the Father. To try to separate God the Son from God the Father in any way is to fail. You cannot separate Them, for They are One. Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ is God wrapped in human flesh. Jesus is *Yahweh* with a human body. Jesus is the Word made flesh and Who dwelt among us. Now, that may offend some of you who do not believe the Bible, but nevertheless, the Bible is clear about this. Jesus Christ is fully Divine; He is fully Deity, and therefore it is proper and right and correct to worship Him. He is to be worshipped. He is *entitled* to be adored and honored and bowed down to, and prayed to and sought after and honored and glorified.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is sinless, and the Bible says that He was tempted like us in every way... yet without sin. The Bible says that Jesus never did anything wrong; He never said anything wrong; He never thought anything wrong; and He never had a wrong intention in His Heart. He was perfect. He was fully Divine, and at the same time, he was also fully human. John Chrysostom, a fourth-century church leader, said that Christ was fully God and fully Man in the same body, at the same time, without conflict or contradiction.

That makes Jesus to be the most unique Person who ever lived. He was the One and Only of the Father. And it pleased God the Father to honor Jesus by giving Him a Name that is above every other name. And at the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Right now, every angel bows down to Jesus; and right now, every demon bows down to Jesus. And right now every believer bows down to Jesus. But the day is coming when *every* human who has ever lived throughout all history will collectively bow down before Jesus Christ. And every voice that has ever uttered a sound since the days of Adam shall rise up in one single chorus and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ is God. And the Bible is also clear that there is only one God. So you are left with a terrible problem in your theology; or else you must accept and believe and trust and take by faith that God is a Triune Being, Who is One in Essence, but Who is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Now in our modern American culture we emphasize a concept that we call “Fairness” and “Equality”. And that concept has been elevated to be the most important element in our culture... but it isn’t. And the result of placing this man-made concept at the top of the list is that many today, even in the modern Church, have little or no understanding of just how *unfair* God is and just how *unequal* God is in His Absolute Sovereignty. For example, we wrongly base all comprehension of right and wrong on how “fair” we perceive things to be. Then we somehow feel as though Almighty God needs to condescend to our human concept of fairness and equality on His Actions. And God simply will not do that.

And when God doesn’t bow His Knees to our human sense of fairness, we blow up and get rather perturbed that God has the audacity to function outside our rules as though He owns it all.

I mean, just Who does God think He *is* anyway?

But you see, dear friends, God being God... God thinking as only God can think... God functioning as only God can function, is precisely what makes God to *be* God. And it is what makes God to be higher than we are and more lovely than we are, and more important and more valuable than we are. And it is what makes God to be worthy of our

worship and our adoration, and our fear and our obedience... precisely because God operates outside of and above our human sense of fairness and equality.

And so the only thing that we know about God that is true, we received from God Himself. The only real picture of God, the only accurate understanding of Who God is... the only reliable and dependable source for us to consult to find out exactly How God operates and Why God does what He does... is given to us by God Himself through the pages of inspired Scripture.

The Bible is the inerrant, inspired, infallible Revelation of who God is and what God does, and what God loves, and what God hates, and how God operates in the earth and in heaven, and it is the single source for us to consult that gives us all the *whys* and *hows* of why God does what He does.

So to know the Bible rightly is to know God rightly. And to be ignorant of the Bible is to be ignorant of God. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that God used to speak to men through prophets, but *now* He speaks to us through Jesus in His Word. So, for us to humble ourselves and learn what the Bible says, is to learn the very Heart and Mind and Will of God. To struggle and study to show ourselves approved of God is to be able to exercise spiritual discernment; and to know right from wrong and to comprehend what the Bible teaches is for us to hear the Voice of God.

And we have spent the greater part of our lives trying to get God to meet *our* expectations and trying to get God to approve of what we are already doing, and trying to get God to bless what we want, and all that we have done is copy the pagans of old who formed and fashioned a god that was made after our image and after our likeness... who cannot speak and who cannot answer prayers. But what we need to do is become re-acquainted with the God of the Bible and learn what God expects from us, and learn what God demands out of us, and learn what God is pleased with so that we may stop what we are doing and submit to His Ways.

And the result of the modern Church having taken the wrong course many years ago is that our concept and understanding of the one true living God has become skewed and off base, and it is governed and managed by our own human reasoning and our own human logic dictates and not the Bible. And our creation of a god that is formed and

fashioned based upon our own human logic is the very definition of idolatry. For many, idolatry has been defined as bowing down to another god - and yes, that *is* idolatry - but idolatry is also the assigning of certain attributes to God that the Bible doesn't assign to Him, and idolatry is also the taking away of certain attributes from God that the Bible says that God clearly has. Idolatry is, in fact, the worship of a god that the Bible doesn't describe.

Now I believe that I am safe in assuming that none of us wants to be in idolatry. But the only way for us to avoid going into idolatry, dear friends, is for us to study and learn, and know and believe, and love and trust, and depend upon and obey, the Scriptures... which is the Word and the Voice of God in the earth.

This is why I am making the changes that I am making in this Church. I realize that these changes have been painful and seemingly strange to some of you... but all that proves is how far off base we have been. We have no excuse to make up our own theology and make up our own doctrine and make up our own ways of living that seem good and right in our own eyes. We must understand that there is no downside to us going God's way, dear friends. Those who desire to follow Christ fully will feel right at home here. Those who desire to do their own thing will feel quite restricted here. Those who desire to know the God of the Bible will appreciate a church whose doctrine is based solely in Scripture. But those who desire "wiggle room" in their own personal and private twisting of Scripture, so that they can indulge in their own carnal pleasures from time to time, will feel that this Church is way is too narrow and way too straight. And that's a good thing.

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.