

**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**  
**29: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 14**

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WAOY Monday 02/09/09

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,**  
**<sup>2</sup> 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.**  
**<sup>3</sup> 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,**  
**<sup>4</sup> 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.**  
**<sup>3</sup> 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 that the writer of Hebrews is going to great lengths to describe just who Jesus is. And in his very detailed description, the writer lists seven attributes about Jesus that are true only of Jesus and are *not* true about anyone or anything else except Jesus in all the Universe. Those seven attributes are:

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

And we have to understand that from the very moment that this inspired, infallible Book was written, sometime around AD 68, nobody could ever describe Jesus again without including these seven attributes in their comprehension of Jesus. In other words, a correct Doctrine about Jesus must include these seven attributes. And any person or any group which seeks to describe Jesus and leave off these seven attributes about Jesus is giving a false, or at best, *incomplete* understanding of just who Jesus is. So I hope you can begin to see why this stuff matters.

Now on the last broadcast, we began to look at the fourth attribute of the Preeminence of Jesus Christ by looking at the next part of verse three, where the writer says that Jesus is

**... the express image of his person... (KJV)**

So, here the writer tells us that Jesus Christ is the “**express image**” of God’s own Person. Now, just what does that mean?

Now as I said last time, one of the biggest fallacies in the modern church today is the fact that in order to appease the sentiments of backslidden and lukewarm people, the ministry of the average church preaches and teaches things that are patterned after the world. The pressure on the pastor today to bring the world into the church is enormous, and I simply refuse to go that way. That pattern of the church following after the world was seen just this past weekend as

men put the “god of sports” ahead of Jesus Christ by staying home from church to watch the Super Bowl, and some churches bowed their knees to the pressure from lukewarm, backslidden, or lost people as they transformed their Sunday night service and brought the Super Bowl into the House of God while Jesus sat over in the corner, unnoticed and un-worshipped. Surely we can agree, dear friends, that Jesus Christ having the Preeminence in the Church is hardly accomplished by things like this.

As I said last time, the Greek word that Jesus used to say “church” is the word *ekkleesia*, which means

*An assembly of called out and chosen people who leave their own homes and gather together in a public place for the express purpose of worshipping God.<sup>i</sup>*

That is what Jesus meant when He used the word “church”. And if that is not the meaning that comes into your mind when you use the word “church”, you are using the word incorrectly. You know, we live in a microwave generation and world of nanosecond computers, instant messaging, and instant coffee. We live in a day when television programs teach us that every conceivable problem known to Man can be identified and solved in thirty minutes with three commercials. But that is simply not true. That approach to life *cheapens* life, and it marginalizes problems and hides the joys and wonder of the abundant life that Jesus promised to all who trust Him for salvation.

That effort to just touch the surface of every aspect of life and move on has made us all dumber and more shallow and less spiritual and less able to deal with the real-world tragedy and troubles and struggles that this life contains. The concept that life is just one big party and that we move from one thing that tickles our ears and entertains us to another is not healthy; it is not normal, and it is not Biblical. That is why I want to slow the pace down and go through God’s Word slowly enough, and in enough detail, so that the meaning of what God the Holy Ghost put into the Bible may shine through to us.

Please understand that it is not important that you hear what *I* say; it is not important that you hear what the President of the United States says; it isn’t important that you hear what people of great wealth say; but it is important that you hear what God says.

My education will not profit you. My experiences will not profit you. What *will* profit you is learning God's Ways and God's Will and God's Heart; and that can only be done through knowing this one single Book. It is important that you hear what God says, and today, God is speaking to us through His Son; and today, God's Son is speaking to us through God's Word; and today, we have a great need to know what this Book says. We have a great need to understand what the Words of this Book mean, and we have a need to comprehend what God has put into these pages.

That is why I go through the Bible expositionally. That is why I am convinced that it is the *only* way to preach and teach the Bible. To learn the Bible line-upon-line and to learn the Scriptures precept-upon-precept is the only Biblical way to study the Bible, so that is why I may spend a lot of time on one or two or three verses. I'm not impressed with the sound of my own voice - that's not it at all - I seek to hear God's Voice - but we must resist the temptation to go through the Bible too quickly where we will miss what God is saying.

This last day "business" that we are all engaged in has also made us less appreciative of the best that God has given to us. It has caused us to not *have* the time, or to not *take* the time, or to not *make* the time to do those things that God says are right and good and edifying and wonderful.

You see, God is not like us. He is different from everything that He has made. He is unlike His entire Creation. That is why He is called the Creator. He is better than and superior to everything that is visible and everything that invisible. In fact, it is God's "otherness" or His holiness that sets Him apart from us, and makes it right and proper and good to worship, adore and serve Him.

And it pleased the Father to give to the Son a Position and a Place and a Name that is above every other position, place and name in Heaven and Earth, including His Own. God so loves His one and only Son that He set Jesus Christ on high above everything that is, so that in the very Person of Jesus Christ, all of God's Glory, all of God's Power, all of God's Wisdom, all of God's Mercy, all of God's Power, all of God's Beauty, all of God's Majesty, and God's entire Plan of Redemption for every soul that *was* saved and that *is* saved and that *will be* saved, will be found solely and only and exclusively in Jesus Christ.

And God set Christ up to be the Head of the Church so that Christ and Christ alone is to be the focus of all that we do, all that we sing, all that we preach, all that we say, all that we pray, and all that we practice. Out there in the lost world is strife and trouble and turmoil, and pain, and misery, and injustice, and sorrow and grief, and anguish of soul... unfairness and death, and sin and greed, and the stink of flesh, and the agony of ungodliness... ungratefulness and blasphemy, and adultery, and fornication, and lying, and cheating, and stealing, and the dishonoring of parents, and the promotion of sin, and the pain of the results of sin, and corruption, and deceit, and war, and poverty, and sickness. Out there honor is walked on, youth is made old, laughter is silenced, innocence is lost, beauty is made ugly, and purity is trampled on. Out there, age is not valued, character is not formed, honesty is not appreciated, and truth is disdained.

Out there the cry of those who lost and those who lose, those who were deceived, those who wake up and realize that they were lied to and fooled, rises up to the heavens. Out there our rehab facilities and our half-way houses and our treatment centers and our twelve-step programs, and our abortion clinics, and our jails, and our morgues, are filled with the souls of men who have believed the lie and who were led down the broad road... who followed the pied pipers of pleasure who teach that "if it feels good, do it"... "If you want to, go ahead"... "Here, take this; it will make you high"... "Here, go ahead, drink this; it will make you a man"... and "Here, go ahead, let's party." Out there, girls are "chicks" and boys are "dudes" and sex is free, and the music is loud, and the party is hardy, and hell is enlarged to take in all the people that are thrown headlong into the lake of fire. Out there, man is god and money is god and sex is god; possessions are gods and power is god and drugs are god; liquor is god, and to drive fast and live hard and dance all night and wake up empty is the chief item on the menu.

Out there is hate like you can't imagine. Out there is the desire to hurt and to do damage, to kill and maim, to wound and to destroy, to seek out and harm, to shoot and stab, and to assault and threaten. Out there the ways of flesh are in charge; the power of carnal thinking rules; the ways of unsaved, unregenerate, and unconverted lives dominate.

The Bible says that out in the lost world is pain and sorrow and anguish and misery in buckets. Out there is place where little girls who used to sit on daddy's knee wake up in some God forsaken motel room

and say “*How did I get into this?*” Out there, young men wake up thinking to themselves, “*Where did I go wrong?*”

We need to remember, dear friends, that every prostitute and every drug addict, every pimp, every single person that has AIDS, every single unwed mother, every single homosexual, every single woman that hides with shame over her abortion, every drug dealer and every woman who takes her clothes off for money or drugs was somebody’s child. They are somebody’s baby, and they used to laugh and they used to play; they used to have dreams until the wolf came... until the enemy of their souls began to whisper in their ears... Until - out there - the Father of Lies began to tell them things that sounded so good, things that sounded so right, things that sounded so cool, things that sounded so exciting, and he deceived them into thinking that sin was a good thing. And now they are paying a price that is too much for them to bear.

That’s why I don’t think sin is funny. That’s why I don’t laugh at those who blaspheme, and why I don’t take the money that God blessed me with and give it to people who are promoting what I don’t believe in. That’s why I take my calling seriously. That’s why I am to preach to those who are out there... those who are dirty and diseased and the product of lies and who bought into the deception that if it feels good, do it. So I better preach the Gospel, and I better preach it rightly, and I better preach it fully; I better not be ashamed of it because it is the only thing that will take those who are out there and bring them in here.

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.

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<sup>i</sup> *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1980)