

# † The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

*...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)*

Hebrews 1:10-14

*10 And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; 11 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, 12 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

Although we might indicate otherwise at times, we tend to care what others think about us. Maybe we do not concern ourselves with everyone, but in each person's mind, there tends to be at least a group of people with which we wish to be acknowledged and accepted to some degree or another.

As you think about that, consider this question – where did this desire for acknowledgement and acceptance come from? While it is true that our God is self-existent and is not dependent upon anyone or anything to sustain Him or to please Him, it is also true that God has chosen to make for Himself a creation whose purpose is to glorify Him and specifically a people who would acknowledge and accept Him as the Almighty God. Again, such acknowledgment and acceptance of God by humans is not designed to make God feel good about Himself, for God is not vain, but rather is a means by which God has chosen to glorify Himself and reveal to His creatures the greatness of His glory.

This theme of God communicating Himself, His greatness, His majesty, His wonder, so that people might come to know Him, fear Him, worship Him, and love Him is a constant theme of Scripture. Beginning in Genesis 2, where the LORD God reveals Himself to and commands man concerning His creation and on through the Word of God, we see this to be so. In the book of Exodus, the LORD makes it abundantly clear that His purposes for the plagues were so Israel, Egypt and the world may know that He alone is the LORD.

***Exodus 6:7***

***Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.***

# † The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)

## **Exodus 7:5**

***The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.***

## **Exodus 8:10**

***Then he [Pharaoh] said [Moses], "Tomorrow." So he [Moses] said, "May it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God."***

In the book of Leviticus, the phrase "I am the LORD" is used no less than 49 times to show the children of Israel the majesty and glory of God. In the book of Ezekiel, the phrase, "you will know that I am the LORD" is used some 30 times. In the New Testament we have the incarnation of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, presented as the One who has come to make God known. In John 1:17-18 we read,

***17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.***

And Jesus Himself made this proclamation about knowing God in His High Priestly prayer in John 17:3,

***This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.***

And then there is the often repeated 2 Peter 3:18 which tells us specifically that we are to have an ever-increasing knowledge of the person of God saying,

***...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.***

Our God wants to be known, wants to be acknowledged and accepted for who He is. This is not for His own ego, but is actually for our own benefit. We need to know God. We need to know our own place in this universe as the creation of God, to experience the benevolence and love of God as revealed in the person and redemption of Jesus Christ.

---

# The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

*...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)*

It is this idea of knowing the greatness of God in the person of Jesus Christ that the author of Hebrews focuses on in his letter to the Hebrews and which we have spent great lengths uncovering in the first chapter of this letter. Specifically in verses 10-14, we have been studying the reputation of the Son as being none other than God by virtue of five traits, three of which we have already looked at. In verse 10 Jesus is shown to be known as Creator. In verse 11, Jesus is shown to be Eternal. And in verse 12a, Jesus is shown to be known as the only Sovereign over all creation, bringing creation to its appointed end.

This morning we look at the final two traits that reveal the vastly superior reputation of the Son over the angels, the first of which is found in the second half of verse 12 -

## **4. The Son is Immutable (1:12b)**

The fourth characteristic revealing the superior reputation of the Son is found in the last half of verse 12 where we read;

***But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.***

Not only is this another reference to the eternal, unending nature of the Son, but it also speaks of His immutability. The term immutability may sound all fancy and intimidating, but it has a very simple meaning – immutability speaks of the unchangeable nature of the Son. Immutability here means that the Son is subject to no change in His will, His decrees, or His being, or, in other words, the Son is unchanging in His purpose, profession, and person. Consider what we have already studied–

- The Son did not become God, but has always been God.
- The Son did not become the Creator, but has always been the Creator.
- The Son did not become Sovereign, but has always been Sovereign.
- The Son will not gain control of this earth in the future, but is in control.

For the Son to be the same mean that the Son can know no change. The passage of time may produce wrinkles, sickness and death in humanity – it may allow us to see a person of knowledge and wisdom grow forgetful and senile, but such time has absolutely no effect on the purpose, profession and person of Christ. He is the Ancient of Days and changes not.

Last week we looked at many Old Testament passages that clearly showed that only the LORD God is Creator and Savior. If this be true, then these New

# † The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)

Testament passages like Hebrews 1 are either confirming that Jesus is the same Creator and Savior as revealed in the Old Testament, or we have false teachings. But I say to you praise the Lord - for the testimony of the Scriptures is that Jesus is the same God of the Old Testament. And in the Old Testament we see that this threefold idea of Christ's purpose, profession and person being immutable or unchanging is affirmed.

In Isaiah 46:9-10 we see this **purpose**, that is, what God intends to do will be done and that this purpose is immutable or unchanging:

***Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'***

Or we might say, "What God purposes, He brings to pass." This is a truth that Job came to understand way back around the time of Abraham. In Job 23:13 we read,

***But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does.***

In Psalm 119:89 we see this **profession**, that is what God says, to be immutable:

***Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.***

What the LORD says, will certainly and completely be accomplished as is affirmed in the testimony of Isaiah 55:12 saying,

***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.***

What a needed and blessed truth. In a world of constant change and compromise; in a world where peoples' word is not their bond, we are told in the Scriptures that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and that His word is always true, always faithful. His promises are sure and we therefore can and must trust Him. Unlike

---

## The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)

the plethora of legalities and lawyers that are needed today to insure that what one says either on paper or by mouth will be carried out and followed through, in heaven there will be no lawyers, for there will only be one Advocate who stands on behalf of those who have trusted in Him – Jesus Christ the righteous. And this Advocate's role is not to insure that God follows through on what He has said, but rather to proclaim to us the position we have as believers in Christ as forgiven.

Finally then we come to see that who the LORD is as a person is also immutable – He will not change – as we see in Malachi 3:6,

***For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.***

Biblically speaking we must come to know that all God is right now, He has always been and will continue to be in the future. Practically speaking then, all that God has revealed and proven Himself to be for believers in the past, He will continue to be into the future. God cannot change. In Numbers 23:19-20 we read,

***19 God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? 20 Behold, I have received a command to bless; When He has blessed, then I cannot revoke it.***

God cannot change His character; He cannot change His attributes; and He cannot change for the better or for the worse. He is in no way growing, developing or progressing. His attributes are already completely perfect and cannot possibly change for the better or for the worse.

Now, what does this have to do with the Son? Well, in Hebrews 1:12b, God the Father says to God the Son, “*You are the same*” or “*You do not change in purpose, profession or person.*” What we know to be true of God is now applied to the Son. And in the context of Hebrews 1:12, the creation which currently clothes the Son will wear out and need to change, but the Son never changes because He is eternal God. Occasionally on Thursday nights, especially during the summer, I will come home after work, having worn slacks and a dress shirt, and change into some shorts and a polo shirt. When I change my clothes and come to Bible Study, do I change who I am? No, I stay or remain

# † The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

*...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)*

the same in my purpose, profession and person. In other words, clothes do not make the man and clothes do not make the Son God.

This will be a continued theme of the author of Hebrews. Most of you are familiar with Hebrews 13:8 which says,

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

Whether clothed in creation, in judgment or in glory, Jesus does not change in person, profession or purpose. Jesus has been and always will be immutable, therefore we can know these three things:

1. Jesus is able to save completely, entirely, fully, to the uttermost, those who draw near to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25) – He is Redeemer!

***Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.***

2. Jesus is always to be confidently trusted (Hebrews 6:19-20) – He is our Hope!

***This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.***

3. Jesus is the awesome God, who is to be worshipped in holiness and given our complete submission and service (Hebrews 13:15) – He is our God!

***Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.***

So then, we have come to see again the superior reputation, that which the Son is to be known and appraised for, as Creator of all things; as Eternal, having always existed, always existing and forever existing; as Sovereign, the One who determines the end and goal of all things; and as Immutable, never changing in person, profession or purpose. We have one more trait to discover which we will save for next week, but let us end with some questions –

---

# The Book of Hebrews – The Superiority of Christ

*...God has spoken to us in His Son...(Hebrews 1:2)*

First, *“Do you truly acknowledge and accept who the Son is – and does such a knowledge affect your everyday living?”* Does what you know about Jesus Christ change the way you think and behave? We have already discussed the truth that knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior is to result not only in a complete change of outward behavior, but also of the very motivations that are a part of our thoughts and being. If you are truly acknowledging and accepting the purpose, profession and person of Jesus, such changes should be notable in your life – if not, plead with the Lord to bring such notable changes.

The second question is this, *“Are you merely a professor of the truths of Christ’s purpose, profession and person, or do such truths actually possess your soul?”* You might ask, *“What is the difference?”* Beloved, it is not enough to simply know and be able to regurgitate such truths. The measure of one’s standing before God is not upon quantity of knowledge, but is rather upon whether or not that knowledge is effecting true and genuine change in your life. Remember what was said earlier, and may this serve to be the focus of your attention this morning - true conversion to Jesus Christ results in not only a complete change of behavior, but also of the very motivations that are a part of our thoughts and being. Not only are your outward behaviors to be changed, but your motivations, your inward thoughts and inclinations are to be taking captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). As we gather now to partake of the Lord’s Supper, consider well what areas of your life, particularly your thought life, are not yet in obedience to Christ – confess them, ask for forgiveness and deliverance from such selfishness as to be living for self – call upon the name of the Lord and be saved from such things. Do not be content with being a mere professor of truth, but ask the Lord that you might be a true practitioner of the truth. Many professors of truth will find themselves in the place of eternal torment and torture on the last day – so seek the Lord while He may be found and beseech Him that you might be a living sacrifice for Him.

Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

---

Copyright © 2005 Edward K. Godfrey. This message is the sole property of the copyright holder and may be copied only in its entirety for circulation freely without charge. All copies of this message must contain the above copyright notice. This message may not be copied in part (except for small quotations used with citation of source), edited, revised, copied for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or other products offered for sale, without the written permission of the copyright holder. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Edward K. Godfrey, Pastor, Hope Community Bible Church, 2300 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street Rogers, AR 72758.