

Touched By Who?
Hebrews 1:4-14

Introduction:

1. **IE:** I Remember When I Was First Set Up With Glasses - I Found Out I Needed Them When I Couldn't See The Score Board During Soccer Games At College - And I Kept Pestering My Date (Now My Wife) To Tell Me What The Score Was, Or How Much Time Was On The Clock! When I Went To The Eye Doctor, They Checked My Eyes & Fitted Me With Some Glasses. The Doctor Tried Many Different Lenses Until He Found Just The Right One! All Of The Other Ones Were Blurry & Out Of Focus! But When We Found That Right One, Everything Was Clear – And I Could See!
2. There Are Many Things In This Life That Are Like Those Other, Blurry Lenses – They Take Our Clear Focus Off Of What We Should Really Be Looking At!
 - Hebrews 1:4-14 Describes One Of Those Blurry Lenses That Was Prevalent When The Book Of Hebrews Was Written!
 - The Issue Of The Greatness Of Angels!
 - Apparently, Angels Must Have Been Regarded Very Highly By These Hebrew Christians In Order For This Issue To Be Addressed So Early On In The Book!
 - But, Angels Are Pretty Prevalent In Our Society As Well, Aren't They?
 - There Are TV Shows About Angels!
 - There Are Books About Angels!
 - In Fact, I Did A Quick Search On The Online Book-Seller, Amazon.com, And Found No Less Than 21,000 Books On Angels!
 - Roman Catholics Even Have Written Prayers To Angels!
 - But The Thing About This Interest In Angels Is That It Is Distracting Attention From Someone Greater & Better, Isn't It?
 - Think About The TV Shows & Books About Angels!
 - Like The Popular Series: "Touched By An Angel!"
 - "A trio of angels are dispatched from heaven with a special mission: to help people facing sometimes unseen crossroads in their lives!"
 - To Touch People's Lives!
 - They Often Make Reference To God, Generically – But How Frequently To They Make Reference To Jesus Christ?
 - Who Really Touches People's Lives?
 - It Wasn't An Angel That Was Touched By The Woman In The Crowd Who Had That Issue Of Blood For 12 Years!
 - It Was The Lord Jesus Christ! And She Was Healed!
 - It Wasn't An Angel Who Touched The Eyes Of The Blind Man In John 9!
 - It Was The Lord Jesus Christ! And He Could See!
 - And It Wasn't An Angel Who Touched The Heart Of Paul On The Road To Damascus!
 - It Was The Lord Jesus Christ! And He Was Saved!
 - Angels Are Beautiful, Holy, Brilliant Beings & Have Held The Focus Of People Since The Beginning Of History!
 - But They Were Never Meant To Distract Your Attention Away From The One Your Whole Focus Should Be Upon!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
3. Read Hebrews 1:4-14!
 - Now, None Of You Probably Worship Angels Or Give Them The Regard That Belongs To Christ!
 - But This Passage Applies To Anything Or Anyone That Takes Your Focus Off Of Your Savior!
 - ***Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!***
 - ***And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!***
 - 1:14 - "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they!"
 - This Verse Ties The Rest Of The Chapter With Its Introduction To The "Son" First Mentioned In Verse 2! So, Its Talking About Jesus Christ!
 - Here We Find A Key Word For Hebrews: "Better!"

- Used 13 Times In Hebrews!
- Means Superior In Every Respect!
- Intensified: “So Much Better!”
- He Is Exponentially Better!
- How Was He “Made So Much Better”?
- Because “He Hath By Inheritance Obtained A More Excellent Name Than They!”
- And That Name Is: “Son!”
- Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!
- Because He Is “Better” / Greater / More Superior Than Anything Or Anyone – Including Angels!
- We Are Going To See 6 Reasons Why Your Focus Should Be Solely On The Lord Jesus Christ!

* Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God Because Of:

1. *The Son’s Relationship With The Father!*

- 1:5 - “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”
- Each Of These Reasons Are Based On Old Testament Scripture – Especially The Psalms!
- Verse 5 Quotes Psalm 2:7 & 2 Samuel 7:14 & Applies Them To Jesus Christ!
- Who Has A Better Relationship With God The Father?
- Angels?
- Or His Only Begotten Son?
- What Does This Relationship Mean?
- “This Day” Refers To God’s Eternal Day!
- 2 Peter 3:8 - “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day!”
- There Is Not A Point In Time When He Was “Begotten” – He Is Eternally Begotten!
- “Begotten” Refers To The Unique & Intimate Relationship That Only Exists Between These Two!
- He Has Always Been & Will Always Be The Son!
- And There Is No One Else That Will Ever Have This Same Kind Of Relationship!
- So, Why Do We Look To Other People Or Other Things To Enhance Our Standing & Relationship With God?
- You May Not Look To Angels To Do This!
- But, You Do This When You Try To Find The “Secret To The Christian Life” In The Books Of Others!
- You Do This When You Try To *Do* What You Think Will Please & Satisfy God!
- ***Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!***
- ***And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!***

2. *The Son’s Relationship With Worship!*

- 1:6 - “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him!”
- Verse 6 Quotes Psalm 97:7 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!
- Who Should Be Worshipped?
- Angels?
- Or “The Firstbegotten”?
- He Is The “Firstborn Among Many Brethren!” (Romans 8:29)
- He Is The “Firstborn Of Every Creature!” (Colossians 1:15)
- He Is The “Firstborn From The Dead!” (Colossians 1:18)
- This Means That He Is First In Dignity, Honor & Privilege – Not Necessarily In Time & Birth!
- Therefore, As The “Firstbegotten” He Alone Deserves To Be Worshipped!
- He Needs To Be First In Your Life!
- So, Why Do We Worship – Put Other People Or Things First In Our Lives?

- You May Not Worship Angels!
- But Are You Worshiping Something Else? What Is First?
- **Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!**
- **And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!**

3. **The Son's Relationship With Service!**

- 1:7-9 - "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows!"
 - Verse 7 Quotes Psalm 104:4 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!
 - Verses 8-9 Quote Psalm 45:6-7 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!
- Who Is To Serve?
 - Angels?
 - Or The Son Of God?
- What Does This Service Mean?
 - Two Kinds Of Service Seen Here!
 - The Son Serves Due To His Position!
 - The Angels Serve Due To Their Duty!
 - They Are Like "Winds And Bolts Of Lightning Which Are Part Of God's Creation & Completely Obedient To His Will!" (Hendrickson)
 - Their Service May Be Powerful, but They Are Still Only Servants!
 - Compare The Service Of The Angels To The Service Of The Son! (Focus On Verse 8!)
 - The Prominence Of The Son's Service!
 - He Serves & Reigns As King!
 - The Proclamation Of The Son's Service!
 - He Is God!
 - The Permanence Of The Son's Service!
 - It Is Eternal!
 - The Perfection Of The Son's Service!
 - His Reign Is Completely Righteous!
- So, Why Do You Serve Others Other Than The Lord?
 - You & I Are Certainly No Greater Than Angels – And Look What They Do! They Serve! And Who Do They Serve?
 - Are You Serving The Lord?
- **Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!**
- **And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!**

4. **The Son's Relationship With Creation!**

- 1:10 - "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands!"
 - Verse 10 Quotes Psalm 102:25 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!
- Who Did The Work Of Creation?
 - Angels?
 - Or The "Lord"?
- What Did He Create?
 - The Earth & Everything In It!
 - The Heavens & Everything In It!
 - He Created Angels! And He Created You!
- So Why Do We So Often:
 - "Worship and serve the creature more than the Creator"? (Romans 1:25)
 - This Happens When The Creation Distracts You From The Creator!
 - Can You Really Sing: "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue!"
 - In Reality: "This world is my home & I don't really want to leave. My treasures are

here in my house, in my garage, in my bank and brokerage account!”

- ***Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!***
- ***And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!***

5. *The Son's Relationship With Time!*

- 1:11-12 - “They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail!”

- Verses 11-12 Quote Psalm 102:26 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!

- What Will Happen In Time?

- The Creation:

- Will Perish!

- **IE:** Like Clothes That Are Old & Torn! Not Even Good Enough For Goodwill!

- Will Change!

- **IE:** Like Clothes That Don't Fit Anymore!

- The Lord:

- Will Last – “Remainest!”

- Will Never Change!

- You Probably Have Heard This Phrase:

- “So Heavenly Minded They Are No Earthly Good!”

- I Don't Really Think That This Is Our Problem – Do You?

- No, We Are Too Earthly Minded!

- We Are Focused Too Much On The Earthly, Temporal & Physical!

- Instead:

- ***Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!***

- ***And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!***

6. *The Son's Relationship With Power!*

- 1:13-14 - “But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

- Verse 13 Quotes Psalm 110:1 & Applies It To Jesus Christ!

- Verse 14 Quotes Psalm 104:4 & Applies It To Angels!

- What Is The Son's Relationship With Power?

- He Possesses The Power To Command!

- Verse 13!

- “Sit On My Right Hand” - “An Emblem Of Rank And Dignity And Power In The Kingdom!” (John Brown)

- “Footstool” - What Victorious Kings Would Do To The Ones They Defeated!

- He Provides The Power To Obey!

- Verse 14!

- To His Angels!

- They Have Been Given The Power To Obey & Serve Their Lord!

- They Are Tools In His Hands!

- How Do We Respond To The Power Of God's Son?

- Who Do You Obey? Who Do You Serve?

- You Too Are Tools In His Hands!

Conclusion:

1. There Is A Lot Of Focus On Angels Today!

- And There Always Has Been!

- But, As We See From Hebrews 1:4-14, The Son Is “So Much Better Than The Angels!”

- So, Where Is The Focus On Christ?

2. Christ Is Better Because Of His:

- Relationship With The Father!
 - Relationship With Worship!
 - Relationship With Service!
 - Relationship With Creation!
 - Relationship With Time!
 - Relationship With Power!
3. But There Is A Lot More Focus On Other Areas Of Our Lives!
- Areas That Distract Us & Blur Our Focus From Where It Should Be!
 - ***Your Focus Should Be On The Son Of God!***
 - ***And Not On Anything Or Anyone Else!***
4. Where Is Your Focus?
- Have You Been Touched By An Angel?
 - Or Have You Been Touched By The Son Of God?

* "I'd Rather Have Jesus!"

***Grace Baptist Church of Mohawk
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***