

INTRODUCTION

1. Please take your copy of God's Word and turn with me to Hebrews chapter 1.
2. This morning we are looking at verse 3.
3. We already looked at verses 1-2 and before my surgery, we looked at two things in verse 2:
4. Jesus is the heir of all things and Jesus made the world.
5. These two truths show us the preeminence of Christ.
6. Today we are continuing our look at the preeminence of Christ as we see in verse 3 five

statements that are true about Jesus and what He did for us.

7. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory, He is the exact representation of God's glory, He upholds all things by the word of His power, He made purification for our sins, and He sat down at the right of God's majesty.
8. Hebrews 1:3 (NASB) 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.
9. Notice first...

LESSON

I. **Jesus is the Radiance of God's Glory (v.3a)**

The Greek word for “radiance” (apaugasma, noun) means to “send forth light.”

It only occurs here and is translated “radiance” (NASB, ESV, NIV84) or “brightness” (KJV, NKJV).

A. He Radiates God's Glory

The author of Hebrews says Jesus “is the radiance of HIS glory.”

1. When Philip asked for Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus replied in John 14:9 (NASB) saying, “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'?

2. Jesus was everything the Father was yet distinct from the Father
3. When He came, He came to do the will of His Father by saying what He said and doing what He did
4. In John 14:10 (NASB) Jesus said again to Philip, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works."

Jesus not only radiates the Father's glory but...

B. He Radiates His Own Glory

1. Going back to the word the writer of Hebrews uses, it also has reference to Jesus radiating light not only from God's glory but also from His own.
2. He is God and radiates His own essential glory.¹
3. So when Jesus said in John 8:12 (NASB) "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life," He referring to those who believe as having the light of life which in essence is God's glory that shines in every heart of those who believe in Him.

¹ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

4. Satan seeks to blind the eyes of those who do not believe lest they see the glorious light of Christ and be saved.
5. 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB) in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The writer continues in verse 3 by giving us another feature of Jesus. He says...

II. Jesus is the Exact Representation of God's Nature (v.3b)

The KJV has “express image” where the NASB has “exact representation”

This is the word *charakter* and was “used for the impression made by a die or stamp on a seal.

The design on the die is reproduced on the wax.”²

So it means “exactly resembling the original,” as the impress of a seal resembles the figure engraved upon the seal.”³

A. Jesus Christ is the Reproduction of God

B. Jesus is the Perfect, Personal Imprint of God in Time and Space

1. Colossians 1:15 says “He is the image of the invisible God.”

² MacArthur, John F., Jr. *Hebrews*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

³ Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. “*Express*.” *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised 1979–1988* : 248. Print.

2. The word “image” here is *eikōn*, from which we get icon.
3. *Eikōn* means a precise copy, an exact reproduction, as in a fine sculpture or portrait.
4. To call Christ the *Eikōn* of God means He is the exact reproduction of God. “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form” (Col. 2:9).⁴

Since He radiates God’s glory and His own and is the exact reproduction of God’s nature, He also...

III. Jesus Upholds All Things By the Word of His Power (v.3c)

“Upholds” as it is rendered in the NASB should

⁴ MacArthur, John F., Jr. [Hebrews](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

be translated “upholding” as it’s used in the KJV. This is a present, active, participle.

The present tense speaks of continuous action which means that Jesus is always “upholding” all things.

If He stopped everything would fall apart.

A. God Spoke the World into Being (Gen.1-2)

1. When God created the heavens and the earth He spoke it into existence with a word.
2. Each feature that came into existence was a result of God speaking 9 times.
3. He could have said it once but He spoke into existence each feature in Genesis 1.

This occurred 9 times.

4. Hebrews 11:3 (NASB) By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

B. Jesus' Word Sustains Everything

1. His powerful word sustains life, holds matter together, and maintains the universe in proper order.
2. It is by Him that all things hold together (Col. 1:17).
3. Here is a simple explanation of a profound scientific problem.

4. Scientists grapple to discover what holds molecules together.
5. We learn here that Jesus Christ is the great Sustainer, and He does it by His powerful word.⁵
6. The word “upholding” also conveys the concept of movement or progress—the Son of God directs all things toward the consummation of all things according to God’s sovereign purpose.
7. He who spoke all things into existence also sustains His creation and consummates His purpose by His word.⁶

Jesus radiates God’s glory and His own and is the exact image or representation of God. He

⁵ MacDonald, William. [Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments](#). Ed. Arthur Farstad. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995. Print.

⁶ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. [The MacArthur Study Bible](#). electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

continues to uphold all things by the word of His power.

If He is all that and can create and sustain the world then He can sacrifice Himself as a perfect offering to the Father on the account of our sins.

John MacArthur writes, “It was a wondrous work when Jesus Christ created the world. It is wondrous that He sustains the world. But a greater work than making and upholding the world is that of purging men of sin.”⁷

Notice it says...

IV. Jesus Made Purification for Sins (v.4d)

A. This is What Paul Preached

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB) For I delivered to you as of first importance

⁷ MacArthur, John F., Jr. [Hebrews](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

B. This is What Scripture Affirm

Hebrews 9:11-14 (NASB) But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood

of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

C. Jesus Purged His People from Their Sins on the Cross

1. 1 Peter 2:24 (NASB) and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
2. Romans 4:25 (NASB) He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

After He did this, verse 4 says...

V. Jesus Sat Down at the Right Hand of God's Majesty (v.4e)

A. His One Time Sacrifice of Himself in Our Place for Our Sins was Finished

1. In John 19:30, He said on the cross, "It is finished."
2. Hebrews 7:26-27 (NASB) For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the

heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

When the Son of God made purification of sins, He did so by Himself, acting upon Himself, offering Himself as the Sacrifice for sin (Heb. 10:12), and for Himself, acting in His own interest.⁸

B. The Right Hand of God Refers to Honor, Authority, Rest, Intercession, and Power

1. First, He sat down as a sign of honor,

“that every tongue should confess that

⁸ Wuest, Kenneth S. [*Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*](#). Vol. 10. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. Print.

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:11).

To be seated at the right hand of the Father is honor indeed.

2. Second, He sat down as a sign of authority.

“[He] is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him” (1 Pet. 3:22).

He sat down as a ruler.

3. Third, He sat down to rest. His work was done.

“But He, having offered one sacrifice for

sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God” (Heb. 10:12).

4. Fourth, He sat down to intercede for us.

“Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us” (Rom. 8:34).

He is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for all of us who belong to Him.⁹

5. Five, He sat down in power.

Matthew 26:64 (NASB) Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the

⁹ MacArthur, John F., Jr. [Hebrews](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

C. Jesus Sat at the Right Hand of the Majesty on High

1. David prayed this in 1 Chronicles 29:10-11 (NASB) So David blessed the Lord in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, “Blessed are You, O Lord God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

2. Job said in Job 37:22 that “around God is awesome majesty.”

CONCLUSION

1. Here we have God’s portrait of Jesus Christ.
2. We have seen the preeminent Christ in all His offices.
3. We have seen Him as prophet, the final spokesman for God.
4. We have seen Him as priest, atoning and interceding.
5. We have seen Him as King, controlling, sustaining, and seated on a throne.

6. This is our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. A man who says that Jesus Christ is anything less than this is a fool and makes God out a liar.
8. God says that His Son is preeminent in all things.
9. What does this mean to us?
10. It means everything.
11. To reject Him is to be shut out from His presence into an eternal hell.
12. But to receive Jesus Christ is to enter into all that He is and has.
13. There are no other choices.¹⁰

¹⁰ MacArthur, John F., Jr. [Hebrews](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 1983. Print. MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

14. Let's pray.

15. Lord's Supper.

The Preeminence of Christ (Pt.2)
Hebrews 1:3
Steve Hereford, Pastor-Teacher
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