

And This Will We Do, If God Permits
An Expository Journey through the **Epistle to the Hebrews**
Chapter 2: God Speaks Now through Jesus
Hebrews 1:1&2
8: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 3

WAOY Wednesday 01/07/09

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 superior way that God speaks to Man under the New Covenant by looking at **Hebrews 1:1&2**. Let's read those verses together.

Hebrews 1:1&2

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.

We are continuing to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** is discussing here in these two verses by looking at the various ways that God used to speak to Man under the First Covenant, or the Old Covenant, versus the much more superior way that God speaks to Man through the New Covenant. And last time we were talking about the two sources of Divine Revelation. I want to continue in that vein again today.

The Bible teaches that there are two ways or two sources of Divine Revelation. These are the two methods by which God reveals Himself to Mankind. First we have what is called "General Revelation". General Revelation is God's Own Creation itself. God's Creation encompasses all the things that God made, and it all testifies to Man about God. For example, let's turn and read **Psalm 19:1-2**.

**19 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.**

**²Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.**

So from this passage, we can see that the Bible teaches that God's Own Creation does three things.

1. It *declares*.
2. It *shows*.
3. It *utters*.

Now these three verbs are simply other ways to say that God's Creation "reveals" certain qualities or certain aspects of God's Own Character and Nature. Notice very carefully that Creation does not boast about *itself*. The Bible doesn't say that the Heavens declare its *own* glory, but that the Heavens declare, or they shout out, or they testify, broadcast, announce, and declare the Glory of God. They reflect the Glory of their Maker, not their *own* glory.

This declaring, showing, and uttering is nothing more nor less than worship. So even though things like the Heavens and the Firmament, or the Night and Day, are inanimate objects, they are nonetheless constantly *worshipping* God by declaring and showing and uttering the Glory and Knowledge of God to all who stand and observe them. And it is noteworthy to say that all of Creation conducts this worship twenty-four hours every day and seven days every week, with absolutely no rebellion at all. All of Creation, that is, except Man - who lives and operates in continuous and hostile rebellion to God and the things of God, and withholds his worship that rightfully belongs only to God. In fact, one of man's main efforts all throughout his life is to rob God of the Glory that only belongs to God, and man steals that Glory for himself. He is committing Spiritual High Treason in the process.

A pagan who has little or no education can stand and look at a mountain or a river or the stars or the precise order of night and day, and from that observation of the Glory of God alone, he can and will come to the conclusion that God exists and that this God is worthy of man's worship and service. In fact, the Bible teaches that the General Revelation of God that comes from the testimony of Creation is so powerful and so unarguable and so pervasive in the Universe that every single human being on earth is held *accountable* and will be *judged* for

not worshipping and serving the one true living God. In other words, the Bible boldly teaches that the General Revelation of God that can be easily observed from the testimony of the Glory of God. This Testimony is declared and showed and uttered from Creation, and it is so overwhelmingly obvious that God is going to judge those who lived their lives and observed Creation and yet did not bow their knees and worship Him. Please turn with me and read **Romans 1:18-32 (KJV)**.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

People ask me all the time, “But Brother Blair, they didn’t know; they didn’t see God; they didn’t understand; how could a loving God send people to hell if they didn’t know?” And there are two answers to that question.

First of all the Bible says that they *do* know. Read **Romans 1:18-20** again with me.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who *hold* the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Now the word that was translated here into English as “*hold*” in verse eighteen comes from the Greek that means *to suppress*. So what Paul is teaching here is not that these people do not know, but that they do know and don’t care. They do know and don’t desire to obey. They do know and refuse to submit. And in their refusal to bow, and in their refusal to obey in their hardness of heart, they actually suppress the Truth that they know to be true and they suppress the Truth in their own unrighteousness.

But how does Paul teach that they know the Truth? Read verse nineteen again.

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

The Bible clearly says that God is good, and that God absolutely shows or reveals Himself to every man. Well, just how did God show or reveal Himself to everyone? Through the General Revelation of the Glory of God that can be seen by the declaration and the showing and the uttering that is made twenty-four hours every day and seven days every week, by and through God's Own Creation. Read verse twenty again.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

In other words, Paul is teaching here that since the very Creation of the Universe, the invisible Attributes of God Almighty such as God's Own Eternal Power and God's Own Divine Nature have been clearly seen. They are not hidden; they are not obscure; and they are understood by Man, and this is so true and obvious and pervasive that the result of all of this is that from this General Revelation of God that can be received very easily from Creation, no human being on the face of the earth has any excuse at all as to why they did not bow before this great God and worship and serve Him.

And the fact that the overwhelming majority of the human race does not bow and worship and serve the one true living God from what can be seen and known from the General Revelation does not in any way diminish their requirement to do so. It does not in any way relieve them of their responsibility to do so, and it in no way eliminates the eternal damnation of their souls because they do not do so.

The fact that Man can be so rebellious and so evil in his heart, so wicked in his imaginations, and so hardhearted as to ignore and reject and refuse the obvious and clear and consistent Revelation of the Glory of God - that is being declared and showed and uttered constantly all around us - is not a testimony that God should have done something more to make Himself known. No, this is simply a very clear testimony of the condition of Man's own darkened heart.

And the second answer to that question is that if you are really burdened about people that have not heard and do not know, then perhaps God is calling you to the mission field so that you can tell them. In that case, I would encourage you to consider selling all that you have here and going to those people to preach the Gospel to them so they can know. As pervasive as General Revelation is, the next type of Revelation is even better and Lord willing, we will look at that second kind of Revelation on the next broadcast.

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.