

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

17: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 2

WAOY Wednesday 01/21/09

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. (NASB)

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.
³ 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,
⁴ 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 just what the Writer of **Hebrews** is teaching in these four verses about how superior Jesus is to everything else and anyone else under the Old Covenant. And last time, we were going over the significance of attaching our obedience *to* Jesus with the concept of our love *for* Jesus. We must remember that love is not just a word. Love is an act of our will; it is something that we do, regardless of how inconvenient it might be or how much it may cost us.

A mother proves her love for her child when she stays awake all night long rocking that child as it suffers through a fever. A father proves his love for his family when he goes to work, even though he hates his job and might even be sick. It doesn't matter to that mother how much sleep she is losing; it does not matter to the father that he

has a jerk for a boss. The love for the child motivates the mother to sacrifice her own wellbeing, and the love for his family prompts the father to sacrifice for his family. *That* is love.

Conversely, a woman who does *not* tend to her child would be hard pressed to tell me that she loves it... and any father who will not lay down his life for his family is no good and is worse than an infidel. (*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.* 1 Tim. 5:8 NASB)

So love for Jesus involves personal sacrifice. It demands self-denial; it expects joyful suffering. And if you consider the fact that I was lost and headed for hell anyway, whatever Jesus may demand from me is just fine. You see, I am blessed by God's Mercy to even be saved to begin with... who am I that I would complain about the straightness of the path or the narrowness of the gate? But love also involves *value*. If we value Jesus, we will obey Him. And therefore if we do not obey Jesus, it is because we have stolen that value from Jesus and placed it on something or someone else. And of course that is idolatry, and no one should ever think that an idolater is exercising love for God.

But how do you know whether you are obeying Jesus or not if you don't know what Jesus has said to do? How do you know to start or stop something if you don't know the Words that came out of Jesus' Mouth? Should we think that we can just wing this? Are we to believe that we are supposed to get some kind of tingling up our spine or some other sensation about what is or what is not God's Will?

No... us knowing God's Will is not some mystical manifestation. It is much simpler than that. We know God's Will only to the degree that we know God's Word. And God has been clear about this, dear friends. God expects - yea, God *demands* - that every single born again believer... old or young, male or female, educated or uneducated... to read and study His Word so that we will know what God's Will is. And when we know, we are to then pray and seek God for Mercy and Grace to actually obey that Will, by and through the Power of the indwelling Spirit.

This is what the Bible calls "walking in the Spirit". Walking in the Spirit is not some existential experience, but is nothing more nor less than walking in humble submission and obedience to the Word of God... which is the product of the Spirit of God.

Under the Old Covenant, the writer of Hebrews tells us in **Hebrews 1:1** that God's Word and Will was revealed to the fathers by the prophets. And even though that Old Revelation was incomplete and partial, it was nevertheless required of all believers to live their lives in humble submission and obedience to the Thirty-Nine Books of the Old Testament. Now that God speaks to Man through the *superior* method of using His own Son, as **Hebrews 1:2** says, those of us who believe today are now required by God to prove our love for Him by walking in humble submission and obedience to all Sixty-Six Books of the Holy Bible. To live our lives in direct rebellion to the Bible is to testify unmistakably that you do *not* love Jesus, and you value almost anything more than you value Jesus the Christ. You can stick your hands up in the air all you want; you can fall on the floor; you can speak in tongues; and you can get baptized and give money... and you can preach until the cows come home... but if your life is in consistent and constant opposition to the Word of God, you are not loving and you are not worshipping Jesus.

In **John 8**, Jesus had a very momentous confrontation with the unsaved and unbelieving Jews who should have been the very ones to have known Him, and yet they completely rejected Jesus the Person, precisely because they rejected His Word.

John 8:37

³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

John 8:42-45

⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

And all throughout the New Testament, rejecting the Words of Jesus was the same thing as rejecting Jesus Himself. To deny what Jesus says is to deny Him. To live contrary to the way that Jesus said to

live is to reject the life, the power, the glory, the peace, the joy, and stability, and the anointing that Jesus brings to those who are saved.

You see, dear friends, it is either all or nothing. Either you love Jesus and keep His commandments or else you do not love Him, and do not serve Him, and do not know Him, and you do what is right in your own eyes. There is no such thing as knowing Jesus at arm's length. You cannot know Jesus apart from His Word being alive, active, vibrant... moving in you, and a part of you, and governing and disciplining and ordering your life.

Jesus has been called many things. He has been called a revolutionary, when in fact He was the most conformed Person who ever lived. He has been called a political anarchist, but in fact, He said that His Kingdom was not of this world. He has been called the first hippie, but in fact, Jesus never rebelled against His Father or His Father's authority even one time. He has been called an example... and a good example He certainly is... but He was much more than an example. He has been called a Teacher, and never has there been a more excellent Teacher than He was, but again, He was much more than just a Teacher.

You see, Jesus didn't just talk about Truth. Jesus *is* Truth. Jesus didn't just talk *about* Love, Jesus *is* Love. Jesus didn't just talk about faithfulness; He is Faithful because Jesus is God. I know that that bothers the ACLU when I say that, but it is true... Jesus Christ was God Almighty wrapped in human flesh.

I know that it offends many in the modern Church to say that, but it is true. Jesus was the most unique Person in all of human history. No one was ever like Him, and no one will ever be just like Him. He was the one and the only of the Father. He was the both the first and the last; He is both the Alpha and the Omega; He is both the Beginning and the End. He is both the Lion and the Lamb; He is both the firstborn among many brethren and the only begotten of the Father. He is both Savior and Judge. He is both Lord and Apostle. He is both Redeemer and Intercessor. He is both High Judge and Advocate. He is standing with His arms held open wide for all to come to him in repentance, and in brokenness and in sincerity, and in truthful and honest hatred of sin; He is also standing with His Eyes burning like flames of fire, with a sharp two-edged sword going forth out of his mouth against those who

play around with sin, and against those who will not bow their knees, and against those who continue to live in sin despite His Mercy.

Jesus is the only Man who was Prophet, Priest and King. He is the only Man who never sinned. He is the only Man who perfectly kept all of His Father's commands, and it is His Righteousness that will allow us into Heaven; it is His Mercy that will draw us to Himself; and it is His Grace that will redeem our hearts; and it is His Blood that will wash us clean.

So, do you hear Jesus today? Let me show you how much better it is with Jesus than it was under the first Covenant. The Old Testament tells us in at least two places (**Jeremiah 23:18, 22** and **Amos 3:7**) that the prophets were let in on the secrets of God. And **1 Peter 1:10&11** tells us that many times, these great prophets penned down the things of God without even understanding what they wrote. Let's read that passage together.

1 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

So we can see that even though God spoke to the fathers through the prophets in great mysteries, now in Jesus Christ, all of these things are both fulfilled *and* understood. That is because Christ is God's final Word. Let's turn to **2 Corinthians 1:20** to read further about this.

²⁰ For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

Now this verse tells us that every Promise of God revolves itself around the Person of Jesus Christ. This verse says that all of God's Promises become "Yes"; they become verified and fulfilled in and through Jesus Christ. So they that are Christ's have access to all the Promises of God by virtue of the fact that they are in Christ, while those outside of Christ have access only to torment, pain, misery, and suffering, and at the end, eternal damnation. You see, in these last days, God is speaking to us by His Son. Do you hear Jesus?

Now please turn with me to read **Mark 9:1-8**.

9 And Jesus was saying to them, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

² Six days later, Jesus *took with Him Peter and James and John, and *brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; **³** and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. **⁴** Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. **⁵** Peter *said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” **⁶** For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. **⁷** Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!” **⁸** All at once they looked around and saw no one with them anymore, except Jesus alone.

When Jesus came to the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John, God identified Jesus as being the only One that He desired them to listen to. So I ask again, do *you* hear Jesus?

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 Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

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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.