

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
19: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ: Part 4

WAOY Friday 01/23/09

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:

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 the seven excellences that the writer of Hebrews shows us in the second half of verse two and all of verse three. So let's read those verses again together.

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Now in these two verses, we can see seven very powerful excellences about Jesus that we need to examine very closely. Those seven excellences are:

1. His Heir-ship
2. His Creator-ship
3. His Radiance
4. His Being
5. His Administration
6. His Sacrifice
7. His Exaltation

Let's take these one at a time and explore them deeply. The first powerful "excellency" that the writer of Hebrews gives us is the *heirship of Jesus Christ*. So let's read verse two again.

²In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Now since Jesus is the Son of God, He is then rightfully the Heir of all that God has made and all that God possess. You see, everything that has been made, everything that exists, everything that is visible and invisible, everything in Heaven above, or on earth below, or under the earth, will only find its true meaning and will only find its true purpose for existence, when it comes under the full, final control and submission to Jesus Christ. That is the glory that rightfully belongs to Jesus and Jesus alone. As we bow our knees to Jesus, with understanding and with humble hearts and minds, we are submitting to His control... to His leadership, His authority, His power, His Sovereignty, His Love, His ways, His purpose, and to His Plan for us.

That is why saved people live. And that is the only purpose of our existence: to live our lives to the Glory of God. You see, genuinely saved people do not seek to try to twist God's Arm so that He might bless what we are already doing. *No, no, no*, we seek to search and to investigate and to struggle to find and understand God's Will... God's Desire and God's Plan for us, and we do that through the line-upon-line and precept-upon-precept study of the only Book that God gave to Man: the Holy Scriptures. Finding God's Will is not a matter of the visiting prophet coming and laying hands on you and giving you a personal prophecy. That is not the way to learn what God's Will is for your life. God's Will is revealed through the pages of the Bible, and the more you

study the Bible, the more of God's Will you will know. And the less you study the Bible, the more confused you will be about God's Will.

Then at the glorious moment when God's Will becomes clear in our hearts and minds, we bow our knees to that Will. We bow our hearts to that Desire. We bow our pride and our arrogance, our self-importance, to the revealed Will of God; we bow our rebellion to that revealed and understood Will of God. And at that wonderful and exciting moment, Jesus Christ is Lord of all. And if that *doesn't* happen, if you do not study and you do not learn, then you will not know. And if you do not know God's Will as revealed through Scripture, there is absolutely no way that you can bow to it. And if you do not bow to it, then Jesus is not Lord.

We must keep in mind that we live in a day, dear friends, when it is being taught by many that God is all about helping you "be all you can be", or that God is there so that you can be great in the earth, or so that you can do great things... or so that you can be somebody of great importance. But that teaching does not come from Scripture. That teaching is *not* Christian. That kind of teaching is false, and is designed to exalt Man at God's Expense. It comes from the pit and is pagan, humanistic, and antichrist. We are here so that we may serve God, so that we may worship and adore and love God, and so that we will enjoy God forever. God is the One who is great, not us. God will not make you great, dear friends; that is a lie, and the first one who taught that lie was Satan in the Garden. Please read with me **Genesis 3:1-6**.

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" ² **The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"** ⁴ **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** ⁶ **When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**

Look again at what Satan told Eve in verses four and five.

⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

“*Nahhhhh*, you won’t die. Don’t worry about all those rules and regulations that God piled on you, Eve! God wants you to be great. Go ahead, eat what God told you not to eat. It’s okay. Go ahead eat it, it won’t kill you. It will make you wise and you will be like a god. You will be important; you will be adored; you will be wealthy; you will be powerful; you will be worshipped; and you will have great wisdom so that you will know good and evil, just like God does.”

And the Bible says that just like so many today, Eve fell for that lie from the father of lies. She ate the forbidden fruit and gave to her husband with her... who was so wimpy and so henpecked and so emasculated, and so subservient to his wife, that he wouldn’t stand up and declare the Word of the Lord, and defend his wife when she was being deceived. And he ate the fruit too.

And we all have been paying for their inability and their unwillingness to believe, trust, and obey God’s Word. Instead they believed the lie that stole the Glory away from God and gave it to them. And that very same lie is being taught today by slick-looking preachers who seem to have it all together, but in fact they are just the latest manifestation of the very same liar who was in the Garden.

The lie that rebelling against God’s Word will make us great in the earth, and make us wise, important, rich, famous, powerful, healthy, and wealthy, and popular... and enable us to drive nicer cars and live in finer homes, and have whiter teeth, and hit more home runs, and win the Grammy Awards, and be like gods in the earth... that same lie is still just as attractive to us today. It feeds our flesh and puffs up our own self-importance. And it builds up our own self-righteousness and encourages our own self-reliance and our self-will, and it feeds our pride and our arrogance just as much now as it did 6,000 years ago, when the same lie deceived our original mother and father and caused the Fall of Mankind.

We must remember, dear friends that *any* teaching that builds up Man is the enemy of Jesus Christ. Jesus didn’t hang in agony on the Cross so that we could become important people. No, Jesus died so that I could come to the Cross broken and spiritually bankrupt over my sin,

and cry out to God for Mercy; and by Grace alone through Faith alone, Jesus could save my wretched soul. Then, from that second forward, I would live my life in deep humility as a bond slave who has no will of my own... who has no agenda of my own and who has no purpose of my own (other than to Glorify my Master, Who bought and paid for me and Who owns me outright.) Please read with me what Jesus Himself said about this in **Luke 9:23**.

²³ And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Christianity is all about Jesus. It is all about us having the privilege and the honor to live our lives in such a way so that Christ can be magnified through us. Because only Jesus is the rightful heir to all that God has made, and any attachment that I have to what has been created is only through my association with Jesus, and not by myself.

So be careful, dear friends, and examine what you are being taught. Is the teaching that feeds you lifting up Jesus, or the preacher who speaks it? Is the focus of the service on the elaborate costumes of the minister, or the ritual, or the ceremony? Is the preacher or teacher the focus of the service? Is he focused on what God is telling him... the “hot line” he has with God, or the vision that God gave him, and the dream that God gave him, or maybe what God spoke in his ear; or is the focus of the service the exaltation, glorification, adoration, and worship of Jesus Christ?

Is Man the focus of everything that is being taught, or is Jesus? And what is the result of all that is being taught? Is the result that Man decreases and Jesus increases, or that Man is being made much of in the earth, and Jesus is simply a tool to help you become great?

The writer of Hebrews said that *Jesus* is the focus; *Jesus* is the goal; *Jesus* is the treasure; *Jesus* is the prize; and *Jesus* is the purpose. Does Christ have the preeminence in the service? If not, you are in the wrong Church. Even the **Psalms** predicted that Jesus would one day be heir to all that God possess. **Psalm 2:6-9** says:

**⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”**

**⁷ “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, ‘You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.**

**⁸ ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession.**

**⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron,
You shall shatter them like earthenware.’”**

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.