

Sermon study Hebrews 1:1-2:4 - How Great Thou Art

Main idea of Hebrews :

Christianity is better because Christ is superior. So, move on to maturity in Christ.

Problem:

The creation displays God's glory - Psalm 19:1-6

We are part of the creation and were meant to display God's glory - Romans 1:19-21

but when we are focused on the wrong glory story, where Christ is simply a means to the end of our glory, we will find only futility in the Christian life.

God will not share His glory Isaiah 42:1-8 -but His glory is to be our chief end and greatest happiness

English Puritan, John Owen in his famous work The Glory of Christ argues that the root cause of all our problems in the Christian life are the result of insufficiently meditating on the glory of Christ.

"...he one thing most needed in our recovery and revival is a steady view of the glory of Christ, in his person, grace and office through faith, or a constant, lively exercise of faith in him as his is revealed to us in Scripture. This is the only way to be revived and to receive such grace as will keep us fresh and flourishing even in old age...The reason why the spiritual life in our souls decays and withers is because we fill our minds full of other things, and these things weaken the power of grace. But when the mind is filled with thoughts of Christ and his glory, these things will be expelled (John Owen, The Glory of Christ)"

Text:

Superior to Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-4)

-Don't miss the main thrust of these four verses (one sentence in the original Greek). The subject is God's communication to Man.

- Prophets had the Word of God - Numbers 12:6-9; Deut 18:15; Matt 17:4-5

- Jesus IS the Word - John 1:1-18 -the Word of God; Rev. 1:1; 19:11-13; Col 1:15-17

- and He is Superior a theme that runs throughout the entire book of Hebrews
Heb. 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24

Superior to Angels (hebrews 1:5-14)

-The letter then moves on from Prophets to Angels.

-Verse 1:7 compared to the original quote (Psalm 104:4) reveals the relevance of Angels at this point -

They are messengers of God's Word to Man. this section is continuing the train of thought regarding the revelation of God to Man, making the case the Jesus is superior

-1:5 is quoting Psalm 2 and 2 Samuel 7:14

- 1:6 brings to mind the angels praising God at the birth of Christ in Luke 2

-1:7 reminds us that angels are messengers - Psalm 104:4

-1:8-9 sees Psalm 45:1-7, a psalm describing God Himself, and ascribes this description to Christ

-1:10-12 likewise does the same Psalm 102:23-27

- 1:13 quotes Psalm 110:1 which references Jesus as Lord. This same quote Christ ascribes to Himself in Mark 12:35-36

-again the main point is that Angels, like prophets are messengers of God and His Word. Jesus is superior as a messenger and the message Himself. He is literally the supreme revelation of God to

Man

Christ is the supreme revelation of God to Man (Hebrews 2:1-4)

-therefore shows us how to apply the fact just brought forth

-Angels brought a reliable message (so did the prophets) the Law (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Deuteronomy 33:2-4)

-the message proved reliable - Romans 3:19-20 - it reliably showed the Man to be a sinner so that every mouth may be stopped

-Hebrews 12:25 illustrates the thrust here- if the message delivered by earthly created beings is reliable

- how much more is the superior message that is Christ reliable and how much more ought we not to drift away from it?

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Main Idea:

We must know this Christ!

implication: Eph 4:11-16

nothing is more relevant than Christ, nothing is more helpful than Christ, nothing is more practical than Christ
any so-called understanding of God that gets Christ, the Christ revealed in Scripture, wrong is wrong -

we must be experts in Christ not in methods or in service but in Christ- our methods and our service will stem from this but they are the by products of our true study - Christ

Application: -Phil 3:8-

if you are a believer THERE IS NO SUBJECT YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN CHRIST

are you drifting from Christ

<http://www.theblazingcenter.com/2012/07/warning-signs-that-you-might-be-drifting-from-god.html>

John Piper nailed Hebrews 2:1-4. Here is a brief article that is definitely a must to explore

<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/the-danger-of-drifting-from-the-word>

the centrality of Christ

<http://ministrytodaymag.com/index.php/ministry-leadership/culture/18176-the-centrality-of-christ>

and the importance of us being focused on the right glory story

<http://eyobberhane56.wordpress.com/2011/12/25/soli-deo-gloria-for-the-glory-of-god-alone/>

really get into this message and dont get stuck on any aspect that keeps you all from applying the message -
discuss how to better focus daily on His glory

How can you daily practice the discipline of delight in the Lord Jesus Christ?