



The Supremacy of Christ

Heb. 1:1-3

February 15, 2009

INTRODUCTION

As Pastor Steve began his first expositional sermon from Hebrews, he pointed out some great “Hebrews facts”

- The book of Hebrews presents Christ like no other book in the Bible
- Hebrews was written to Jews who were weak in their faith or were walking away from their faith
- The pressure on Jews to walk away from their faith was immense – as it is today.
- The writer of Hebrews makes no effort to convince the readers that Jesus was real – it is an assumed fact.
- The cosmic evidence for God is deafening
- God has been progressively revealing Himself to us over time

BARE BONES OUTLINE

- I. Jesus is the final Spokesperson for God
 - A. God spoke through the prophets first
 - B. Now God has spoken to us through His Son
- II. The absolute sovereign King
 - A. Jesus is the Heir of all things
 - B. Jesus is the Creator of all things
 - C. Jesus is the Sustainer of all things

OPEN IT

In today’s electronic era of communications, we are continually immersed in information. From subjects as routine as the weather, as impacting as the economy, as significant as how the president “weighs in” on an issue, or as mundane as the description of wardrobe pieces of the attendees at the latest nationally televised award program, we all have our favorite way of finding out “what’s happening.”

1. What’s your favorite method of receiving important news?
2. Do you have a favorite person you like to get your news from? A favorite TV station?
3. If your favorite person isn’t on your favorite news program, does it bother you?
4. How about at church – if you knew Pastor Steve was going on vacation, would you still come to church?

The point is: when there is a new messenger, there is usually a lack of credibility – sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanent. We all have to figure out if the new guy is as good as our favorite who has always delivered the “news.”

The Jews were in the same situation. This new guy (Jesus) was replacing the tried and true methods of the prophets of the past. The writer of Hebrews had to teach about Jesus’ qualifications if he wanted the people to obey what he had written.

EXPLORE IT

1. What method did God predominantly use to communicate to the people?
 - Prophets were the ones who spoke for God
 - Prophets were regarded with the highest respect by the Jews
 - They were God's mouthpiece for 3600 years from Adam to Malachi
 - They communicated blessings, love, judgments, discipline
2. While God used mostly prophets to communicate, He also used other methods.
 - Dreams (Abraham)
 - A burning bush (Moses)
 - A still small voice (Elijah)
 - Dreams and visions (Isaiah, Ezekiel, David)
 - Angels, smoke, clouds, plagues, earthquakes, fire, and even a donkey
3. Why do you think God got so elaborate with His communication methods (couldn't He have just left them a note)?
 - The creativity and power of God assured the people that there could be no denying – it was God Himself that was speaking
4. God sent His Son as the perfect revelation. While Jesus was the final and full revelation, what was God revealing in His Son?
 - The prophets were an introduction of what was to come
 - God was revealing Himself
 - In Jesus, God revealed Himself from promise to fulfillment
 - Jesus is the final disclosure of everything God wants us to know about Himself
5. Do you believe there is any more progression of revelation about God yet to come?
 - Read Heb. 11:40
6. Through Jesus, God made several statements. God wanted the Hebrews to make "double sure" that they were not being deceived into thinking that Jesus was nothing more than another prophet. What were the statements God made in these verses?
 - Matt. 17:5
 - John 7:16
 - John 8:38
 - John 12:49-50
 - John 14:10-11
7. God refers to Jesus as an heir. Heirs are given title to all that the giver possesses. What is Jesus heir to?
 - As the heir, Jesus is the absolute, sovereign King. As the King, He is:
 - Heir of all things
 - Everything belongs to God. Jesus has sovereign ownership of everything in the world (Ps. 24:1)
 - Application: our inheritance is the same as Jesus' (Rom. 8:16). What this means now:
 - Suffering is guaranteed to be temporary (Rom. 8:18)
 - Our bodies (aging, disease, death) will be redeemed like Jesus' resurrected body (Rom. 8:23)

- We have joyful and patient hope (Rom. 8:24). Imagine what you would be willing to endure if you knew of a large, guaranteed inheritance to come in 5 years.

8. Jesus is Creator of all things. Why is this such a big deal?

- Jesus' greatness is declared as the Creator of the universe
- To emphasize the limitless creative power of Jesus – demonstrated in these Scriptures:
 - John 1:3
 - Rom. 11:36
 - 1 Cor. 8:6
 - Col. 1:16 (probably the best one of all)
 - Application: the Greek word the Hebrew writer chose in Heb. 1:2 is *aion*
 - Literally translated: “through whom he made the *ages*”.
 - The implication: there is a purpose for everything; the factor of time (past or future) is considered. The past was made with the future in mind. All things have a purpose according to His plan.
 - That's the great thing about Col. 1:16: By Him and for Him.
 - There are no accidents (Acts 17: 26-28)

9. Jesus is sustainer of all things. How does this affect us today? For eternity?

- By His powerful word He holds everything together
- The universe avoids confusion
- Simply by the power of His word all things are in order

APPLY IT

1. As Jesus is Heir, Creator, and Sustainer, what does that mean for us as His children?

- Christ is worthy of all of our loyalty and commitment – even in suffering
- Jesus is worthy of all of our worship, submission and trust
- He will do for us what we can't do for ourselves – materially and spiritually
- 2 Cor. 5:17 – you are not the exception – nothing in our lives is beyond the creative and sustaining power of Jesus

Personal Ah Ha's!!

What was one thing that really hit you from this week's message?

What is one way you can apply the message from this week?