

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-3

“Jesus, God’s Word to us” – January 7th, 2018



Introduction

The Christian life is more than a quick decision and done; it's more than a sprint, it's a race of endurance. That's how Hebrews describes it: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:2). When Hebrews was written (likely sometime in the mid 60s A.D.), a community of believers was suffering for their faith. Many of them were Christian converts *out* of Judaism, so they faced hostility both from Rome and from their Jewish family and friends who disagreed with their decision. They endured public mockery, some were imprisoned, and others lost their property for following Jesus ([Heb. 10:33-34](#)). So how could they endure? How could they continue to trust and follow Jesus all the way to the finish line? That's why Hebrews was written! It is God's word to His people to strengthen our weak knees and feeble hands, to renew our strength, faith, and hope. How does he do it? Hebrews begins by moving us to fix our eyes on Jesus.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:17-24](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Fix your eyes on Jesus (1:1-3)
 - a. Our Prophet
 - b. Our Priest
 - c. Our King

Read & Discuss

Read [Hebrews 1:1-3](#)

Hebrews begins by contrasting God's word in the Old Testament ('to our fathers, by the prophets') with God's word to us in the New Testament ('by his Son'). The problem with the Old Testament is not that it is *unreliable* (it is!) but that it's insufficient by itself. We need God's final word to better understand who He is and how He resolves the problem of our sin. Because God is a speaking God, we can know with certainty who He is and His heart. Why is the fact that God speaks helpful for us in our trials?

After reminding us that God is a speaking God, Hebrews zeroes in on who Jesus is. In vv2-3, the author lays out seven glorious truths about Jesus that can be organized under His being our better and final Prophet, Priest, and King (the three offices we see in the Old Testament). By fixing our eyes on Jesus, we find fresh, hope, strength and courage so that we might endure.

As the heir of all things, Jesus owns all things. As the owner of all things, Jesus has authority over all things. Supporting this idea is the reminder that God created the world through Jesus and that He sustains the universe by the word of His power. As heir, creator and sustainer we see Jesus as the better and final King. What we believe by faith now (Jesus is King) we will one day see with our eyes. One day every knee *will* bow and tongue *will* confess Jesus as Lord ([Philippians 2:10-11](#)). While the world remains in rebellion to God now and the church undergoes persecution, it can be hard to believe Jesus is King. How are we to live *today* in light of the truth that Jesus is King? What difference does it make in the trials we face? How can we encourage each other when this is hard to believe in light of circumstances that seem to say otherwise?

Not only is Jesus the King who rules, He is the Prophet who reveals God's glory. He does not *reflect* God's glory, He radiates it as part of the source. He is not a close approximation of what God is like, He is the *exact* imprint of His nature. To see Jesus, is to see God ([Jn. 14:8-9](#)). To walk away from Jesus is to walk away from God's Word which He has given us to show us Himself ([John 1:1, 14](#)).

Finally, Jesus is our Great High Priest who makes it possible for us to be right with God. He is the One who has provided purification for our sin. Why did Jesus sit down at God's right hand, the place of greatest honor? Because, the work of our redemption was finished. There was nothing more for Him to do (see [Hebrews 10:11-14](#)).

All these truths about Jesus are not mere information to store away. They are truths that change everything. The child of God, by faith, is united to Christ. So, not only is Jesus the heir of all things, He makes you a co-heir with Him ([Rom. 8:17](#), [1 Cor. 3:21-23](#)). Not only is the universe made and sustained thru Jesus, He's made the Christian a *new creation* ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)). Not only is He the radiance of God, we're being conformed to His likeness ([Rom. 8:29](#)). Not only is He our perfect priest who provides purification for sin, He's made us a royal priesthood to tell others about Jesus; not only is He seated at the right hand of God, He has raised us up and seated us *with* Him ([1 Pet. 2:9](#)). All the blessings we have as Christians, come by virtue of being united by faith, to Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King. Why would we ever leave Him?

Additional reading: Psalm 2:8; Colossians 1:16-17; John 19:30

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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