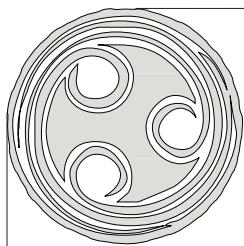


Christ's Incarnation Preeminent Over Man & Angels : Hebrews 2:5-18



"The fact that "devils" are predominantly comic figures in the modern imagination will help you. If any faint suspicion of your existence begins to arise in his mind, suggest to him a picture of something in red tights, and persuade him that since he cannot believe in that, he therefore cannot believe in you"
Uncle Screwtape's advice to Wormwood; Screwtape letters; C.S. Lewis

sermonnotes

Introduction

"What was true of man in promise, we see fulfilled in Jesus; What we see in Jesus, will be made true of man."

Andrew Murray – 19th Century

Last week the author went on a short hiatus to remind us "how great a salvation" we have in Christ. This warning would ring empty if it weren't true. He brought us back to the law to remind us of our depravity, which either moves us toward the need for a savior and hope, or prideful rejection and despair. Jesus is so great a salvation because according to scripture there are no other options (**Acts 4:12**). Our passage picks up where it left off in chapter one verse thirteen, contrasting Jesus with the angels, who he says are nothing more than "ministering spirits sent out to render service for the sake of those that will inherit salvation." Angels have been seen as created beings (created by Christ/God) and they are to worship their creator (**Hebrews 1:6-7**). In our day, the idea of angels and demons is a bit absurd and outdated. The bible has a lot to say about these created creatures, who either serve God in humility (angels), or work to destroy the works of God out of pride (Satan/demons). C.S. Lewis proposed the idea that Satan either conceals his identity so that he can subtly infiltrate the ranks, or he allows his identity to be known so that people can live in dread, and focus all of their attention on him rather than God. I think in our "rational" age, he uses the former, so that we can ignore the spiritual realm, and look for tidbits of wisdom to survive life this side of Eden, relegating God to a cosmic gift giver, rather than the sovereign Lord that He is. Our passage reminds us once again of whom Christ is, and that He is more than a cosmic Santa Claus.

From The Head...

Our passage breaks up into two clear parts:

The Humiliation and Glory of God Incarnate (Hebrews 2:5-9)

The passage picks up from **1:13** where it began to discuss what is subjected to Christ. It begins with a thorough quote from Psalm 8, which highlights mankind's sublimity in spite of its humble origin. The author is attempting to identify Jesus incarnate with the human family, who was also humbled to become like man (**Philippians 2:3-8**) in everything but sin (**Hebrews 4:15**). Jesus became what man was intended to be (see **Romans 5:12-21**; **1 Corinthians 15:45ff**). We see man in his primordial glory, created in the image of God, and made to subdue and to work in the city of God (**Genesis 1:26-27**), yet fallen in his rejection of God's plan for his life. Nothing is subject to anyone but Christ, because He is the one who came, identified with our pain, and took our pain and sins on Himself, suffering greatly for our redemption. When we suffer, we can identify with a savior God that identifies with us. It is important to realize a theological reality in the plan of God. In Christ, everything has been subjected to God's will, but as our text reminds us; we can only know this by faith. With great hope, we believe that Christ is the victor in the midst of our pain. There are some who believe that think that Christ has paved the way on earth for Christians to rule in God's kingdom, but this verse explains to us that there is an "already" but "not yet" reality in the kingdom of God. God being timeless has secured out of time our salvation and the victory over death, but that reality is future to us living in time. It is not until we are physically separated from our current tents9 Body) that we can actually experience the totality of our salvation, and freedom from sin (see **1 Corinthians 15**).

Christ's Missional Call (Hebrews 2: 10-18)

John 20:21 reminds us that Christ was sent to us, and that subsequently, we are sent into the world like Him, to identify with those that suffer for the sake of His kingdom. This text is clear on Christ's sent and intended mission for the sake of His people. There are many that believe that Christ either couldn't have

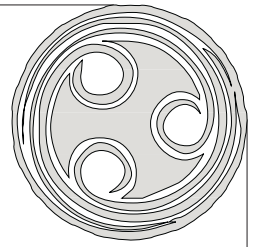
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suffered, or that God would be immoral to allow it, but scripture is clear that it is the clearly intended plan of God that His Son should suffer for the sake of the whole (**Isaiah 53; Acts 4:27-28**). Thus, in spite of man's objections to the atrocity of sacrificing Christ on the cross (see **1 Corinthians 1:18-24**), it was "fitting" that He did just that. In this single act, God not only paved the way for mankind to be redeemed, but He identified fully with the hurt and pain and sin of mankind. He dirtied Himself for our gain. Thus He was able to call us "brothers" as the **Psalms 22:22** and **Isaiah 8:17-18** quotes reminds us. Both of these Old Testament quotes are in the context of the messiah making God known to the nations, thus including the non-Jews as "brothers" (see **Romans 9:1-8**). Christ was made "like" man, in order to show man merc, and be the perfect sacrifice for them. In this Christ is both the priest and the sacrifice.

What does this all mean for me? Simply, we like Christ are called to suffer for the sake of the gospel. If we see religion as an escape from the stress of life, it only is as we are engulfed in its mission to glorify God on this earth. We all hurt and sense pain in a spectrum of ways and degrees, but none of us has felt the pain of the cross, borne by our savior on our behalf. If we are to be sent into the world incarnationally (missionally), then we are, in spite of our lament, called to mission. What is it that you are doing to further the kingdom of God? What is it that you are doing to demonstrate the reality of God's "already/not yet" kingdom in your life? Do we honestly believe that Christ 2000 years ago came to this earth, lived a perfect life, went to the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven, redeemed, and accepted in order to be His agent for more people to be dragged to Zion? DO WE? If we do, then let's begin to be motivated by the lover of God and others, rather than our fears, pride, and guilt, and let's begin to push forward here together for the glory of God!

sermonnotes



... To The Heart

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