Jesus is the Glorious Son | God's Greatest Gift Hebrews 1:2b-3 Ryan Heard, Director of Communications Lord's Day, December 18, 2016

Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians during a time of trial and persecution. The author of Hebrews aims to strengthen their faith by reminding them of who Jesus is and what He has done. Today, we have no less need of a fresh vision of who Jesus is and what He has done. As we see Jesus, let us be drawn by God's grace to believe, worship, and follow while resting in Him.

## 1) Believe Jesus is the Son of God (v. 2)

#### a. He is the Son of God (v. 2a)

We are children of God through Christ | Galatians 3:18 says, "For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." Christian, do you believe God loves you or do you doubt it? If you doubt it, look at the cross. What more can God give to show his love than his own beloved son?

## b. He is the heir of all things (v. 2b)

By virtue of his sonship and redemptive work upon the cross, Jesus has been appointed *heir of all things*, meaning that he will inherit everything. He will inherit the nations, the ends of the earth, and all of creation. As children of God, we are fellow heirs with Christ.

What is our inheritance? The promises of God, the righteousness of Christ, the family of God, treasures laid up for us in heaven, but ultimately God himself. We will be glorified with God as we spend eternity with him together!

Remember your identity as child of God and co-heir with Christ. Remember your inheritance and reject the world. Persevere in the hope of eternal life with God.

### 2) Worship Jesus as God (vv. 2-3)

# a. He is the agent of creation (v. 2c)

Not only is Jesus to inherit "all things", but he is also the one through whom everything was created.

Colossians 1:16 says, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or

rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him."

Does your life reflect that everything belongs to Jesus? Do your budgets, schedules, bodies, relationships, desires, thoughts, etc. display this?

## b. He displays the glory of God (v. 3a)

God's radiant glory is revealed most fully in Jesus, who shares the same divine essence as God the Father. Want to see the full radiance of the glory of God on display? Look at Jesus. We are promised transformation as we behold him.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."

Are you beholding the glory of the Lord through his word? Why would we want to neglect this very blessing from God and means for our transformation? Free Bible reading plans are available in the Crosspoint bookstore.

# c. He reveals the nature of God (v. 3b)

Jesus is the representation and manifestation of God's very nature. He is the very "character" of God.

Jesus teaches that he represents God in John 14:9, where he said, " The one who has seen me has seen the Father." But he takes it a step further by not only claiming *likeness* to God, but *oneness* with God in John 10:30, where he told the Pharisees, "I and the Father are one."

Do you wonder what God would be like on Earth? Look at Jesus Do you wonder how God interacts with sinful man? Look at Jesus Do you wonder how much God loves his people? Look at Jesus

### d. He possesses the power of God (v. 3c)

How do we know Jesus possesses the power of God? He upholds the universe by the word of his power. The creator of the universe is also its sustainer.

"The created world does not run by "laws of nature," so that the Son's continued superintendence is dispensed with. The author of Hebrews does not embrace this deistic notion of Creation. The

universe is sustained by the personal and powerful word of the Son, so that the created world is dependent on his will for its functioning and preservation." – Peter T. Obrien

Do you live in fear due to things beyond your control? Terrorist attacks? Nuclear warfare? Car accidents? Natural disasters? You can find rest by trusting Jesus holds everything together, including every aspect of your life.

# 3) Follow Jesus While Resting in Him (v. 3)

### a. He made purification for sins (v. 3d)

What does this mean? Jesus offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to pay our sin debt and remove sin's stain from us forever.

Sin is disobedience to God, and every one of us is guilty of committing sin. The wages or consequence of sin is death. Therefore every human stands guilty of sin and deserving of death. In order for sin to be forgiven, sin must be paid for by death. In the Old Covenant, priests would repeatedly offer unblemished animal sacrifices to atone for the sin of God's people, but this could not take away sin.

Jesus came to earth to offer up himself as the perfect sacrifice once for all. Jesus was sinless and therefore unblemished. He was fully man and therefore could represent mankind. He was also God and therefore could satisfy God's infinite wrath toward sin. *Jesus was both sacrifice and high priest.* And he now is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Now you and I can be forgiven of our sin debt and have the stain of sin removed. We can be made new and made clean!

# b. He is seated at the right hand of God (v. 3e)

Having completed his mission, he sat down at the right hand of God, enthroned forever. He now intercedes before the Father on behalf of his redeemed. The work is done.

Are you striving still? Are you trying to atone for your sin? Find your rest in Jesus' finished work upon the cross, and follow him now as you rest in him.