

## GOD'S GREATEST GIFT | Jesus is the Final Word

Hebrews 1:1-2

Ken Lewis, Senior Pastor

Lord's Day, December 11, 2016

### Advent Series Overview

I. Jesus is the Final Word (Heb. 1:1-2a)

II. Jesus is the Glorious Son (Heb. 1:2b-3)

III. Jesus is the Intimate Savior (Heb. 1:3-4)

#### ▪ Context

The book of Hebrews pertains to the cost of discipleship. Believers were being persecuted and that planted doubt, which cause them to waver and wonder if there faith in Christ was worth the trouble.

**Hebrews 10:32–33** But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

#### ▪ Purpose

**Hebrews 13:22** I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

The writer exhorts believers in two ways:

(1) Teaching - He addresses the fundamental questions of who Jesus is and what he has done.

(2) Warning - He gives serious warnings for them if they don't heed the words of Christ.

**Hebrews 12:25** See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

#### ▪ Contrast (1:1-2a)

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| - Long ago (1a)                        | - but in these last days (2) |
| - God spoke to our fathers (1c)        | - he has spoken to us        |
| - by the prophets (1c)                 | - by His Son                 |
| at many times and in<br>many ways (1b) |                              |

### I. JESUS IS THE FINAL WORD (1:1-2A)

#### A. GOD SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS BY THE PROPHETS (1:1)

#### B. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON (1:2A)

God has spoken in his final word, and he has done so in the single person of the Son, who is himself the divine word (Jn. 1:1) and as such the supreme, the ultimate, and the absolute Prophet.

Amazingly, the author viewed the revelation of the Son as God's "speech" to us, and thus it is an appropriate metaphor for all that God does through Christ in the world and not just in reference to the words of Christ. **Allen, D. L. – *Hebrews*, p. 104**

#### **Four questions:**

**(1) Is Jesus the final revelation or is there something else?**

**(2) Does God still speak?**

> **We are exhorted to listen to the voice of God.**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the **word** of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**(3) Is God's word sufficient?**

#### **Attributes of Scripture:**

> **Sufficiency:** The Scriptures contain everything we need for knowledge of salvation and godly living. We don't need any new revelation from heaven.

> **Clarity:** The saving message of Jesus Christ is plainly taught in the Scriptures and can be understood by all who have ears to hear it. We don't need an official magisterium to tell us what the Bible means.

> **Authority:** The last word always goes to the word of God. We must never allow the teachings of science, of human experience, or of church councils to take precedence over Scripture.

> **Necessity:** General revelation is not enough to save us. We cannot know God savingly by means of personal experience and human reason. We need God's word to tell us how to live, who Christ is, and how to be saved.

- **Kevin DeYoung**

- **That doctrine of sufficiency is based mainly on 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and Jude 1:3.**

The sacred writings . . . are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:15-17) . . . Contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

#### **The Baptist Faith and Message 2000**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

- **That is why we preach the word. Expository preaching!**

**Hebrews 13:7** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

- **For the word to benefit those who hear it, it must be eagerly heard, firmly believed, and instantly obeyed.**

#### **(4) What are the dangers of ignoring the word of Christ?**

- **Drifting from the Word (2:1-4)**

**2:1** Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

- **Doubting the Word (3:7-4:13)**

**3:12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

- **Sluggish toward the Word (5:11-6:20)**

**5:11** About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

- **Rebelling against the Word (10:26-39)**

**10:26** For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

- **Resisting the Word (12:25-29)**

**25** See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.