

Welcome to our Christmas Series....Bibles...O Come All Ye Faithful – Faithful in Expectation

As you get older, I believe, you live with less expectation...Kid...teens...AARP & SSI

Can you feel how little expectation there is in your life...Christmas rejuvenates that muscle

- Remember when you were a kid expecting a Christmas present...Nintendo DS

You wanted something so badly...you stayed awake wishing, writing letters, praying happen

This is how we should be about the Christ coming into the world and the promise of return

For thousands of years people were waiting on a savior and now for thousands years...back

Today we look at a text that is powerful Christology – Reminds us of expectation

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Imagine waiting years important message – a message that explains everything – Happens

- When message comes: direct, unmistakable, and remarkably clear – This is who God is
Christmas declares Gods nature

Think of God's nature as an ocean you're in the middle of...it surrounds you on all sides

- Boundless...has no discernable bottom or edges this represents His transcendence

Transcendence = God is superior to & independent of the physical universe & human experience

- Drops of water hit your skin from the vastness of the ocean this represents immanence

Immanence = God is present and active in world. Remaining close to and involved with humanity

Christmas gift of the Messiah...we get both – God's transcendence and immanence in man

With Christmas we get the entirety of God's nature being born in human flesh...three truths

1. Jesus Speaks Gods complete word (1-2a)

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

- Many Ways – Creation – Audible – Burning Bushes – Miracles – Angels – Visions
 - Prophets – Chosen to speak on God's behalf | People who represented God's voice
- God has been speaking to us from the beginning – Garden, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph...

Does anyone in here like puzzles? I hate them...imagine doing a puzzle without the box top

Everything the prophets spoke was incomplete without Jesus...Jesus comes and makes clear

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, God has spoken finally and fully through His Son

- Unlike the prophets who were messengers...Jesus is the message | Jesus is the reason
- All previous revelation points toward Him, anticipates Him, and finds fulfillment in Him

God's final Word is a Person – God in the Flesh as God's Complete Word

There is a difference between text and facetime...Prophets were text...Jesus is facetime

whom he appointed the heir of all things, - What does that mean?

Heir = Legal/moral recipient of God's entire estate. His rule is total and without limitation.

- Ultimate universal authority – All creation – Power – Dominion – History belongs Jesus
- Fulfillment of the Messianic Promise – King and Lord...The New and Better Adam

Significant for us because Romans 8:17 says we are Co-Heirs with Christ

- Believers are united with Jesus through faith, they share in His inheritance.
- Eternal life, resurrection body, the renewed world are what we will inherit with Him.

Takeaway: See clearly because God has spoken his full word

Standing front of building...ask guy next to you...explaining...He's the architect...Trust?

Trust Him with your worries—He created the world and holds your future.

2. Jesus Shows Gods sustaining power (2b-3a)

through whom also he created the world. | The baby born in a manger was the agent of creation

What power statement – This shows us that Jesus was not created...eternal and means

When you think of the Trinity = (F) Architect – (S) Builder – (HS) Energizer

- The creation through Jesus is seen as absolute and comprehensive
- "all things" created through Him—heaven and on earth | Visible (planets, humans)
- Invisible (thrones, powers, spiritual authorities) **Nothing in existence Jesus didn't make**
3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,

Here we see the matchless majesty of Christ on display – Jesus reveals God perfectly

- Radiance = Shines with God's very glory...not like a mirror reflection but as the sun
- Exact imprint = Like the image that is pressed into a coin...representation of God

I was watching one of those debates you see on YouTube...What is God really like?

There were different religions represented...even the Christian was describing attributes

Do you want to know what God is like? Read the gospels and study the Son = That's God

- If you want understand God's love, Jesus' compassion | Holiness – Purity | Love – Life
Stop letting culture, or assumptions define God—let Christ define Him
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Not just Creator...Sustainer - Holds universe together—not with effort, but with His word.

- Nothing exists or survives apart from Him – blow mind...Everything b/c Jesus says so

When Jesus being nailed to the cross...He was sustaining the men who wielded the hammer

Takeaway: Release anxiety Christ upholds the world

- Rest in the truth Jesus holds your family, your future, your fears – Not overwhelmed
- Trust that He upholds you even in seasons of stress, grief, or weakness.

3. Jesus Satisfies Gods redemptive agenda (3b-4)

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Refers...atoning work of Christ – Purification was a priestly term = Holy & Acceptable to God

- When Jesus died on the cross, he purified your sins...The only way accessible to God
- He sat down – Significant...priests never sat down in the temple...work wasn't done
Carpenter building a house...labors for hours and then sits by way of showing completion
Sitting down...ultimate proof work of purification was perfect, permanent, and sufficient

- Symbol of rest – Signifies the end of His earthly labor, suffering, and humiliation
- Right hand of the Majesty on high - place of supreme honor, authority, and power
 - Jesus, humbled himself to die for sins, is now exalted to the Father's own throne.
 - Not merely a prophet or martyr...divine Son who reigns as King and High Priest
- Stop – Receive – Live | Stop trying to earn what Christ has already finished
- Receive His forgiveness with confidence—He purified you fully.
- Live boldly, knowing your Savior-King reigns with authority and love

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Jesus is superior to the angels in His identity – Angels = Glorious / Powerful but created

- Jesus is Eternal – Divine – Exalted | His superiority is rooted in His nature not position

Jesus is superior to the angels in His Inheritance – Rule, authority, nations, and glory

Think of the stories of a prince who lived among the common...coronation is exalted

Takeaway: Live confidently because Christ has finished the work

- Live with confidence: your Savior is enthroned and victorious
- Submit every part of your life to the rule of the Son

Jesus is Heir of all things - Creator of everything - The Radiance of God's glory

Exact imprint of God's nature - Upholding the universe