DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION



TEXT SUMMARY

Our Advent series continues with our study of the first chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews. In this week's text, <u>Hebrews 1:8-9</u>, the writer continues with his discussion of the superiority of Christ to the angels. Whereas the angels are only God's messengers (v. 7), the Son occupies the throne as God forever.

The sermon drills down on two assertions about the Son:

- 1. The Son is God.
- 2. The Son's throne is eternal and righteous.

<u>INTRODUCTION</u> (OBSETVATION): Here we try to **notice** everything we can see in the text.

- 1. If you go back to the text the writer cites here (**Psa 45:6-7**) you'll see another example of the "now and not yet" method of interpreting Scripture. What is subject/occasion of Psalm 45?
- 2. What is the subject of the sentence in v. 8? To whom is the quotation attributed? (To find this answer, you must scan back through the context, all the way back to v. 5.)
- 3. What assertions does the writer make about the Son in v. 8-9?
- 4. Hebrews 1:9b opens with "Therefore." How has God the Father responded to the throne, the scepter, and the justice of the reign of the Son?

<u>DISCUSSION</u> (INTERPRETATION): Here we try to discern what the text **means**.

1. How can God speak to the Son as God? Does this mean there are two Gods? (See also Rom 9:5 and 2 Pet 1:1.)

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2.	. The writer asserts that the kingdom of the Son is
	one of justice: "uprightness righteousness
	[loving] righteousness and [hating] wickedness."
	And yet we see injustice apparently flourishing in
	our world. How can we reconcile these two truths:
	that Christ reigns and yet injustice still lingers?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must **respond** to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. When we think about the baby in the feeding trough, we don't normally think of Jesus as King. And yet thinking about this text during Advent forces us to deal with this odd juxtaposition.
 - It's easy enough to be sentimental at Christmas time ("the most wonderful time of the year," as the song has it). What are some things you can do to attune your heart to respond to the Nativity of the Christ Child with worship and obedience rather than mere nostalgia?
- 2. It is no small matter that God the Father Himself speaks to the Son as "God." Such is the esteem the risen Christ has earned in the courts of heaven that even God the Father speaks to the Son in words of praise.
 - While it is culturally appropriate to think of the story of Baby Jesus as a tale of quiet peace and warm good will, Scripture claims so much more for him, even in the events surrounding his birth (the visitations of angels, the virgin conception, the visit of the dignitaries from the East). What can you do to make sure you don't lose your sense of astonishment at what God has done in giving us Jesus?