

THE TRUTH THAT REMAINS

Hebrews 1

God's Supreme Revelation

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

The Son Exalted Above Angels

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

The first part of our passage of Scripture today was incorporated into our message last week in the reading of **Hebrews 12**, to give a bit more context as to what the writer(s) were ultimately saying. It is though, a beautiful thing to behold, the more you get to know God and His Word, how His Word becomes an awesome and tightly-knit together image of who He is and of His great love for His creation.

To go along with that, as we are told in **Hebrews 11:1** that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, [and] **the evidence** of things not seen". It is a marvelous way that God Almighty has given us that evidence through a "great cloud of witnesses", His Word, the Holy Scriptures, and also His Holy Spirit that will guide into all truth, in Christ Jesus. It is then in The Truth that is in Christ Jesus that we can put our trust in God and find His rest, as is explained in Hebrews 3 & 4, assured that His Truth remains. Therefore, as we take heed to what God's Word is telling us, according to the doctrine or teaching of Jesus, as we abide in Christ Jesus and in His Word (**John 15**), we can have the confident assurance that we too will overcome death, sin, and evil just as did our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the One and only True Living God.

Yet just as God continued to plead with His people in the times past of what we can read about in the Old Testament [according to the Old Covenant God had with Israel], God hasn't changed. As we continue to read such things, according to the New Covenant we have with God in Christ Jesus, as what is in **2 Peter 3:9**, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." If anyone wonders what is holding Jesus back from returning, that's it. As **Hebrews 12** reminds us, we are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, from God's Word, from those we can read about in biographies and autobiographies, and also from the living testimonies of those of whom God has placed in our lives and paths. We have perhaps family members, friends or acquaintances, work associates, and those we know who join us for church every Sunday, and also on Tuesdays if you come out here to the park, or on the third Saturdays. Or if you go to Ensley Baptist later in the day on Sunday for their church service and meal. And on and on and on. Praise the Lord we have a great cloud of witnesses right here within our local community. Isn't it wonderful to know that we are not alone in this life and in our struggles. Some things you may have to bear alone or solely with Christ Jesus, but we have many others in our lives that can encourage us to not give up the faith in Christ Jesus.

Our passage of Scripture today in **Hebrews 1**, that we also looked at last week, starts by saying, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets [which we can read about in God's Word], has in these last days spoken to us by His Son [of which we also read about in God's Word], whom He has appointed heir of all things [of which we will be joint-heirs with Jesus-**Romans 8:17**], through whom also He made the worlds [Greek word is aeons: ages, time]; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image [charakter] of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more

excellent name than they." We too then, obtain 'the most excellent way' in Christ. Jesus came in the brightness of God's glory and in the express image of His person. "Express image" is the Greek word "charakter". Christ Jesus was literally "God" manifested in the flesh. As we can read in the similar opening of the gospel according to John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things** were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (**John 1:1-5**) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**)

We are not then just speaking of and living our lives according to a philosophy of man in hopes of appeasing whatever god(s) may be taking notice. We then have the Holy Scriptures also as well as the vast testimonies of others and we also have the Holy Spirit of God at work bringing us into the unity of the faith that is in Christ Jesus. "Thank You Lord for all of Your provisions!" Glory to God He has given us the Great Revelation of His plan of redemption for us as was spoken of by Jesus Himself, saying "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (**John 3:16-17**) That can lead us to say, in the confidence we have in our faith, just as the Apostle Paul said, "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." (**2 Timothy 1:12**) Will we put our unwavering trust in God to do the same for us, no matter what circumstances come our way? Have you committed yourself to God according to His will and way?

Speaking of the Way, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, came to show us the Way, give us the Truth, and then to provide for us eternal Life in Him. As Jesus proclaimed, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**) Jesus bore our sins, that is, He took our sins upon Himself so that we could be forgiven of our sins and cleansed of our sins so that we can be reconciled to God, to have a relationship with Him as our Heavenly Father, by being, as Jesus said we "must be born-again", that is, born of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle John explained that process saying, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) Jesus also put it this way, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (**John**

14:23) That is basically being obedient to the call of God to repentance.

Our passage of Scripture in **Hebrews 1** says, "Therefore we must **give the more earnest heed** [sound familiar?] to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." We are ultimately being led by the Holy Spirit to repent of our sins [just as Jesus preached and so also the Apostles] and turn to God through Christ Jesus for forgiveness of sins. That Greek word in the New Testament for repent is metaneo which means to 1. recognize a need for change and the 2. to heed towards that need for change. It is revealed to us in God's Word that all of us have at some point sinned against God and need to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (**1 John 1:9**) what we are then acknowledging is that God hates sin, as He is perfect in all of His ways and works, and that as children of God, as we have believed on and received the Holy Spirit, also referred to as the Spirit of Christ, we are expected to then live our lives according to God's Ways, according to who He is, giving an earnest heed to God's Way, Truth, and Life through Christ Jesus. As we looked at last week, we are told that God chastises and scourges (disciplines) His children, getting us right according to His Way, Truth, and Life. It could then be said, in a sense we are continually being led to that repentance, that heeding the need for change, throughout our lives, yet we do get closer to His perfection along the way, hopefully.

Biblegateway.com, of which I pulled the text for this message, entitles the first part of this Scripture as the "Supreme Revelation". In other words, there is nothing better for us to know than Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of mankind as He is God's Supreme Revelation for us to know the Way, Truth, and Life. As God's Word has gone forth and has spoken to the minds and hearts of those who have ears to hear and hearts to receive God's great and marvelous plan for His salvation for us, His Word then shines within our community and throughout the whole world, through the lives and testimonies of God's people, His children, testifying to that "Supreme Revelation" of God. Really, a summary of our calling in Christ, as children of God, is to believe on and receive Christ and then we are also to heed to the doctrine of Christ. The Apostle John tells us, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." (**2 John 1:9**) That word "doctrine" is the Greek word "didache" which just means teaching or instruction. Praise the Lord, Jesus summed up His teachings and God's will for us in saying all the law and the prophets hang on it, that is, to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love others as yourself (**Mark 12:30-31**) - or as God loves them if you aren't feeling so good about yourself at the present.

Who is this God you speak of, one may ask? While God is not His name but is just a title that refers to the One and only Supreme Being who reigns over all of His creation, and is referred to in translations of the Scriptures as capital G-o-d. The rendering of G-o-d in the Scriptures is from the Hebrew YHWH, or as some scholars would contend YHVH. Since there are no vowels it is proposed then, that it translates to either to Yahweh or Jehovah. Out of reverence for God's name, it was not typically spoken by the Jewish people. Similarly though, the name of Jesus comes from the Hebrew name "Yeshua [or Yehoshua], and its English spelling is "Joshua." But why then do we call Jesus, Jesus, since we have Ys in our alphabet and we could call Him Yeshua or Yehoshua. Yes you could but Iesous is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name, and its English spelling is "Jesus." Thus, the names "Joshua" and "Jesus" are essentially the same; both are English pronunciations of the Hebrew and Greek names for our Lord."¹ When Moses and Aaron went before the Pharaoh of Egypt to tell him to let the Israelites go, they said to him, "Thus says the Lord God [YHWH Elohim] of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.' " "And Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord [YHWH], that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord [YHWH], nor will I let Israel go."

Where this leads us is in possibly asking "how then does it matter?" It matters in that we should be first of all be looking unto to the One who is our Lord, God, and Savior, the one who upholds all things by the power of His word. We are "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:2**) We are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses", and as we also have the Word of God, and we can then as Paul said know who we believe in and be persuaded that He is able to keep us according to His Word. We then also have the Holy Spirit of God that will lead us into all truth, as Jesus promised His disciples. (**John 16:13**) All three of those are meant by God to be in full agreement. That is where, if someone asks "who is this God you speak of?", or even if you begin to have your own doubts, you can read of, and speak of, what His Word tells us of who He is, and also of your own testimony of what God has done for you in your life, and the Holy Spirit will be backing you up in agreement to your testimony. God's Word tells us, from the 2nd epistle, or letter, of Paul's to his spiritual son Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" (**2 Timothy 3:16**) We are promised by God's Word, that His Word will make us complete and thoroughly equipped for all of God's plan and purpose for our lives. It is also in order to know God for who HE IS. Prior

1 <https://www.gotquestions.org/Yeshua-Jesus.html>

to Paul telling Timothy that the Word of God will make you complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work, he said, "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (**2 Timothy 3:15**)

If God's Word will make us "wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus", that then becomes our testimony, that then speaks to others as we are sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus. Our testimony is not just head knowledge, it is also as the Apostle Paul spoke of that "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." (**Romans 8:16-17**) God's Truth remains, in Christ, from the glory revealed to us in Christ Jesus, to the fullness of God's glory and His glory that will be revealed in us, from Glory to Glory we are putting our hope and trust in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord! "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (**Acts 4:12**) That is the Truth that remains!