

Jesus, Cautions & Benefits

"No Turning Back" (Study of Hebrews) - part 1
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 27th, 2019

How context helps: (Hebrews 2:1, 10:32-34, 2:3)

How Jesus is Described: (Hebrews 1:1-3)

- As **L** _____ (v1-2)
- As **C** _____ (v2b)
- As **R** _____ (v3a)
- As **R** _____ (v3b)
- As **S** _____ (v3c)
- As **P** _____ (v3d)
- As **R** _____ (v3e)

How Jesus is more than Angelic: (Hebrews 1:4-14)

- His **N** _____ (v4-5)
- His **R** _____ (v6)
- His **A** _____ (v7-9)
- His **L** _____ (v10-12)
- His **V** _____ (v13-14)

Cautions regarding Bible Study:

- We focus on the _____
(1 Timothy 1:3-7)
- We become _____ or _____
(Proverbs 6:16-19, 1 Corinthians 8:1, Ephesians 4:1-6)

Benefits regarding Bible Study:

- Better understanding and clearer _____
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 29:18, Judges 21:25)

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 1 of our 5-week small group study through Hebrews 1-4.

At GPC, it is our prayer for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks.

Getting Started:

Before we get started with some questions related to last Sunday's message and Hebrews 1, let's catch up a bit. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened in the last few days that you can share. Let's take a little time to celebrate with one another and support one another.

In Hebrews 1, Jesus is described in various ways that allow us to get to know Him better. To help us get to know each other better, let's all share 3 descriptive terms that we think describes ourselves. Try to pick at least one that might surprise the rest of us.

Jesus is described as being involved in the creation of the world. (Hebrews 1:2) Speaking of creating, when you were a child, what did you enjoy making? What was one of your larger 'building projects' when you were a kid?

One of the ways Jesus is described in Hebrews 1, is that he sat down at the right hand of God the Father after he died to pay for our sins and rose from the dead. (Hebrews 1:3) In this context, 'sitting down' was a sign of completion.

When have you worked hard on a project and after it was all done ... you 'sat down'? Another way to ask the same question, in the past few years, what accomplishment was challenging for you that you finally finished and felt good about? (getting a degree, taking on a new position, finishing a race ???)

In Hebrews, Jesus is also described as 'upholding the universe by the word of his power'. (Hebrews 1:3) If he is upholding the universe, that means he is upholding you too! How have you felt God sustaining you in the past weeks or months ... or longer?

If God is sustaining the world, why do bad things still happen? How would you answer someone who asks you, "If God is so loving and powerful, why did this tragedy happen?"

Before we start to discuss the passage from last Sunday and dig a little deeper into other passages, let's read Hebrews 1:1-14 again.

From last week's message, what was helpful or encouraging to you? Was there a question that you thought of after listening to the message we can discuss together?

Digging Deeper:

In this first chapter of Hebrews, Jesus is compared with angels. The early Jewish followers of Jesus, were tempted to redefine and even dilute who Jesus was to them.

If they would just believe that Jesus was a 'good angel' (a messenger of God) and not the Son of God, the Jewish community would more welcome them and the Romans government would be less suspicious of them.

Today, people don't mind if you are religious, just as long as you don't take it too seriously. When have you felt your faith in Jesus has caused some to be a bit more reserved around you?

Why is it that in today's culture, Jesus still makes some people nervous?

Since angels are mentioned in this chapter, let's do a summary study of angels in the Bible. Read the following verses and share what we can learn about angels.

Isaiah 6:1-3, Matthew 13:39, Matthew 18:10, Mark 12:25
Luke 2:13, Luke 16:22, Luke 20:36, Luke 22:41-43
Acts 12:7-10, Acts 12:23, Acts 27:23-24
Ephesians 3:10, Colossians 2:18, Hebrews 12:22
Hebrews 13:1-2, 1 Peter 1:12, Jude 6, Jude 9

From the above verses, what is the relationship between angels and Jesus?

What are some things that angels can do for you?

What are some things that angels cannot do for you?
(that can be accomplished by God instead)

Hebrews 1:1-2 reminds us that our God speaks to us. What are some ways God has spoken to you in the past? How did you know if it was God and not just you talking to you ?

In Hebrews 1:1-3, Bob pointed out seven descriptions of Jesus. Which one(s) did you find more interesting and/or encouraging as you listed them?

In Hebrews 1:3, Jesus is described as 'the radiance of the glory of God'. Bob pointed out that Jesus is more like the Sun than the moon. How is that?

One of the more interesting moments in Jesus' ministry was His transfiguration described in Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. In this moment, His glory was able to be seen beyond His humanity. Read these accounts and discuss any insights you have.

For us who are more like the moon than the sun (reflectors more than radiators) what are some practical ways we can reflect more of God's love and light to our world?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-10 to add to your discussion.

What would be some indicators that we are trying to be more like the sun than a moon as we relate to others?

Wrapping Up:

Based on our discussion, what is one way each of us can apply a Biblical insight or encouragement to our lives in the days ahead?

Before we wrap up, let's share some prayer requests and pray for each other. We are better together!