

## **EYES ON JESUS**

### **HEBREWS 1:1-3**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. Today we begin a study... of the book of Hebrews.
- b. The theme of Hebrews is “Jesus is better”... the word “better” is found 13 times in this book... and each time it is used to describe how Jesus is better than anything or anyone else.
- c. Jesus is better because Jesus is God... who came into this world to make salvation possible for everyone who will turn from their sin and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.
- d. Hebrews was written to first century believers in Christ... who were struggling.
- e. Like Christians of any generation should... they were looking for the second coming of Jesus Christ...but that had not happened.
- f. The situation in the world was getting worse... followers of Christ and the Lord’s churches were increasingly becoming targets of persecution by the government ... and by the culture.
- g. Many Christians had become discouraged... and many professing Christians had drifted away from the faith... they had dropped out of the church and dropped their Christian identity.
- h. The book of Hebrews... is certainly relevant for our time and our day.
- i. Today we live in a time... when Christians and churches even in God-blessed America are increasingly becoming the targets of pressure and persecution ... both from our own government and the ungodly culture around us.
- j. We live in a time when the world is exploding... with sin, evil, wrong, violence, and immorality.

- k. We live in a time when many in the church are discouraged... and many professing followers of Jesus Christ have deserted their Christian identity... their Christian testimony... and the church.
- l. Not only is the message of Hebrews relevant for today... it is a message that we desperately need to hear today.
- m. In the day when Hebrews was written... the church desperately needed revival... and the church in America today desperately needs revival.
- n. The writer of Hebrews declares that believers need to quit being so focused on... consumed by... and caught up in the condition and the corruption of the lost world...and keep their focus on Jesus.
- o. *Hebrews 12:2 “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.”*
- p. I love the book of Hebrews... because this book is about Jesus.
- q. The writer of Hebrews doesn’t begin his book with a greeting or salutation... Hebrews does not begin with a standard or gentle introduction,
- r. The writer of Hebrews jumps right in to truth about Jesus... the writer opens his letter by immediately presenting five amazing aspects of the character and nature of Jesus Christ.

## **II. JESUS IS GOD’S FINAL WORD TO THE WORLD-**

- a. *Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) “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...”*
- b. Before Jesus came into the world... God had spoken in many different ways.

- c. He had spoken through angels... through a burning bush... through dreams... there was even a time when God spoke through a talking donkey.
- d. Before Jesus came into the world... God had spoken through the prophets and writers of the Old Testament.
- e. But the writer of Hebrews declares that Jesus Christ... is God's final word mankind... Jesus is the culmination of God's revelation of Himself to mankind.
- f. This says two very important things about the Bible... #1, the Bible is a completed and closed book... #2, the Bible... and the Bible alone... contains God's revelation of Himself and His truth to the world.
- g. Any book... which claims to contain revelations from God that are not found in the Bible... is a lie.
- h. This includes books like the Koran... the book of Mormon... etc.
- i. This also means that any person who claims that they have received a revelation of truth from God that is not found in the Bible...is a liar.
- j. This includes many of the religious scam artists... who parade around on TV today as prophets and preachers.
- k. This does not mean that God does not speak in a spiritual way to the heart of His people today ... God does speak spiritually to His people today... by the Holy Spirit... and through His Word... to illuminate His truth... to illuminate His Word...and to guide us in life.
- l. But God will never give you or anyone else... a new revelation of truth about Himself that is not found in His Word... and He will never lead you to do something that is contrary to His Word.

God's final word to the world

### **III. JESUS MADE AND MAINTAINS EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE-**

- a. In his introduction... the writer of Hebrews says that Jesus is the One who made the universe ... He is the Creator who created all things.
- b. And he says that it is Jesus who is sustaining, maintaining and holding the universe together ... through the power of His Word.
- c. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the member of the Trinity... who did the hands on work of creation.
- d. *John 1:3 (NKJV) "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."... John 1:10 (NKJV) "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."*
- e. *Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible... All things were created through Him and for Him."*
- f. Not only is Jesus the Creator of all things... the Bible says that Jesus is the One who is upholding all things by the power of His Word... Jesus is the One who is holding all things together.
- g. Jesus is the reason why there is order in creation and in the universe ...and not chaos.
- h. Jesus is the reason why the earth and the planets and the stars have a constant and consistent orbit and pattern... instead of spinning out of control and running and colliding into each other.
- i. Jesus is the reason why the moon does not crash into the earth ... Jesus is the reason why the oceans stay within their boundaries.
- j. Jesus is the Creator of the universe and He is the power...that is holding the universe together.

God's final word to the world...Jesus made and maintains everything in the universe

#### **IV. JESUS PERFECTLY REFLECTS GOD'S GLORY AND CHARACTER-**

- a. The writer of Hebrews said that Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory ... and the express image of His person.
- b. “The brightness of God’s glory” ... refers to the divine nature of Jesus.
- c. When Jesus came into the world... His humanity covered His divine nature... the brightness of God’s glory that resided in Him.
- d. There was one occasion when Jesus allowed the brightness of God’s glory to shine through His humanity... and that was on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- e. *Matthew 17:1-2 “Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.”*
- f. In Mark’s gospel the Bible says that the appearance of Jesus was transformed... *“and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them.”*
- g. How bright is the glory that resides in Jesus?... in the New Heaven and New Earth... His glory will light up creation... Revelation 21:23 *“And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.”*
- h. Not only is Jesus the brightness of God’s glory... He is the express image of God’s person... to see Jesus is to see God... because Jesus is God.

God’s final word to the world...Jesus made and maintains everything in the universe... Jesus perfectly reflects God’s glory and character

## V. **JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEANSE SINNERS-**

- a. The writer of Hebrews says that Jesus is the One... who has provided “purification for sins” for all sinners.

- b. No matter who we are and how we look on the outside... because of our sins... spiritually we are all polluted, dirty, filthy and rotten on the inside... and because of our sin ... none of us are acceptable to God.
- c. Jesus is the only person who ever lived... who was morally and spiritually pure, clean, holy and sinless.
- d. When Jesus was on the cross... He took the pollution and filth of our sin into His perfect and pure body... and He took the just penalty for our sin upon Himself.
- e. Now because of His sacrificial death and His resurrection ... when a person gives their life to Christ... Jesus is able to wash them and cleanse them of the pollution of their sin ... He is able to make them forever holy, pure, right and acceptable before God.
- f. What can wash away your sin?...nothing but the blood of Jesus...  
what can make me whole again?... nothing but the blood of Jesus!

God's final word to the world...Jesus made and maintains everything in the universe... Jesus perfectly reflects God's glory and character...Jesus is the only one who can cleanse sinners

## **VI. JESUS SITS IN THE PLACE OF HEAVENLY HONOR-**

- a. The writer of Hebrews says that when Jesus finished His sacrificial work ... "He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."
- b. Did you know that in all of the instructions found in the Old Testament detailing how the Temple building and the things that were to go in the Temple were to be built... there were no instructions to build chairs or pews to go into the Temple?
- c. Why were there no chairs or pews in the Temple?... because Jews did not sit down until the job was done.
- d. And the job of providing the final sacrifice for the sins of mankind was not finished... until Jesus died on the cross and rose again.

- e. And when the resurrected Lord returned to Heaven... to the right hand of the Father... He sat down... because the work of providing salvation for the sins of the world is finished.
- f. Now at that is left... is for you to repent of your sins... believe on Christ... and receive Him as your Savior and Lord.
- g. Let me tell you something... one day Jesus is going to stand up ... get on a white horse and come to this world again... and you had better be ready.

## **VII. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Jesus is God's final word to the world...Jesus made and maintains everything in the universe... Jesus perfectly reflects God's glory and character ... Jesus is the only one who can cleanse sinners... Jesus sits in the place of honor.
- b. I read a story once about a wealthy man who had one son. His wife had died, and the son and father were very close. Their passion was collecting art. The father had been able to purchase works by some of the masters like Picasso and Raphael. Eventually he had a collection of art worth millions. When the Vietnam War broke out, the son volunteered to join the Marines. After several months, the father received the heartbreaking news that his son had died in action while rescuing a wounded Marine. A few months later a stranger appeared at the father's door holding a wrapped package. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I was a friend of your son. In fact, I'm the one he saved in battle. I was wounded and as he was carrying me toward the chopper, he was killed. Your son often talked about your love for art." He unwrapped the package and said, "I'm not much of an artist, but to honor your son, I painted a portrait of him based upon a photo of him in his Marine dress blues. I'd like for you to have it." The father's eyes welled up with tears and he thanked the young man and offered to pay for it. But the Marine said, "Oh no, sir, it's a gift. I can never repay you for what your son did." The father hung the portrait over his mantle. He would always take his visitors and show them the painting.

Years later, the man died and his artwork was auctioned off as part of the estate. Many collectors arrived, anxious to acquire one of the valuable pieces of art by the masters. As the auction began the auctioneer placed the picture of the father's son on the easel as the first piece to be auctioned. He said, "What is my bid for this picture of the owner's son?" There was silence. Finally, a voice from the back said, "We didn't come to bid on that unknown piece. We are here for the Rembrandts and the Van Goghs." But the auctioneer persisted. "The deceased left clear instructions that this piece should be auctioned first. What is my bid? \$100? \$200?" There were no takers. Finally a voice from the back of the room said, "I have been the gardener here for many years. I was very fond of both the father and the son. I'll bid on the picture of the son. I'll give you \$100." The auctioneer said, "\$100. Is there another bid?" The crowd was growing impatient. Someone yelled, "We don't want the son. Sell it, and let's get on to the valuable pieces of art!" The auctioneer said, "\$100 going once; going twice; sold for \$100!" A man seated on the second row said, "Good, now let's get on with the real auction!" The auctioneer laid his gavel down and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the auction." The crowd jumped to their feet. "What about the other paintings?" The auctioneer said, "I received specific instructions from the will of the deceased that this would be the only painting auctioned off. And that whoever bought this painting would inherit the entire estate, including all the other paintings." Here, I will read the words he left in his will, "Whoever chooses my son gets it all."

- c. The book of Hebrews teaches us the same thing... two thousand years ago Jesus died to save us from hell... and God has been asking ... "Who will take my son? Who will take my son?"
- d. And whoever chooses His son Jesus Christ... gets it all!
- e. The Bible says in *1 John 5:12*, "*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*"