

**Text: Hebrews 1:1-3**

**Title: “Jesus ... All I Need from God”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Looking around the room at the beautiful decorations all perfectly lit causes me to be a bit jealous. The rain has kept me from getting my outside lights up, and I'm getting anxious. It's actually become like spiritual warfare for me. For years we've had a lighted nativity scene in our front yard and we wanted to add a couple of angels. We found some that their wings sort of flapped. I got the first one out of the box and, though it was like fighting an octopus, I finally got it put together and all the lights burning on it. The second one was not so easy. Again, I managed to “wrestle” it together ... then one string of the lights was not working. I have to admit that I was tempted to see if that angel could fly, like across the fence into the neighbor's yard. I finally concluded that it was a fallen angel, and it's going back to the store. My manger scene will be delayed this year.

It's very clear from reading the accounts of the birth of Jesus Christ that God was up to something huge. It's easy for us to get short-sighted in the intimate little manger scene of Mary and Joseph with little baby Jesus asleep in the straw and the shepherds and animals all around. But God was up to something huge. He revealed it to Mary through the angel Gabriel.

**Luke 1:30-31 - The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.**

So far, nothing all that extraordinary about the announcement, but then...

**Luke 1:32-33 - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”**

God was up to something huge in sending His Son. We see that in the book of Hebrews. Open your Bibles to Hebrews 1:1 (Pew Bible pg.1184). During this month you will hear the story of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem read many times. So we will revisit the *story* of Christmas, but in my preaching this month I want us also to revisit the *significance* of Christmas, of the Incarnation. We need to know *what* happened, but we also need to know *why* it happened. Why did God send His Son into the world? Read Hebrews 1:1-3.

Now you need to know this about the book of Hebrews. It's a very difficult book in many respects until you see that it is a letter written to a group of people (Jewish Christians) who are about to give up on their faith. They had come to a spiritual standstill and they in were in danger of going back on their commitment to Christ.

We know what it's like to come to a spiritual stand-still in our lives. The one thing that will keep us fired up and fervent in our faithfulness to God is a vision of this Christ who stepped out of glory and into our world at the Incarnation.

**ILLUSTRATION** – In recent years people have become obsessed with what is called “the bucket list.” It was fueled by a movie a few years ago starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson about a couple of old men who know they’re dying and they want to check some things off the list of things they’ve wanted to do before they “kick the bucket.” And I hear people talking about their bucket list. It’s like this world’s pleasures are so fascinating, and we see those opportunities slipping away; so we better cram in as much as we can before we kick the bucket. What a wasted life! I’m coming to the place in life where I realize that there should probably be only one thing on my “bucket list,” and that is to know Christ better and better. He’s all I need. He’s all I’ll ever need. Everything else on the bucket list is hollow and empty once I check it off the list. Not so with Jesus.

I’m going to challenge you today to think more deeply about Christ than perhaps you want to think. Maybe you have no idea just how vast is the knowledge of Christ ... how much you don’t know about Him. You have a little bit and you think you have all you need. Well, you don’t, and I don’t. We must think deeply about Christ. There’s no better time to do that than at the season when we celebrate His birth.

So God did something huge in sending His Son to be born a baby in Bethlehem’s manger. The Bible shows us all that God was showing us in that little Child.

## **1. HIS SUPERIORITY (vv.1-2)**

The cool thing about the book of Hebrews is that the writer takes everything imaginable and holds it up alongside Jesus Christ, and says Christ is better. He holds up the prophets, the angels, the OT system of sacrifices, and the Jewish high priest all alongside Jesus ... and says Jesus is better. So we see the absolute superiority of our Christ.

Now you notice that in the first two verses there are two time references. In v.1 the writer of Hebrews refers to God speaking in the “past.” And in v.2 he speaks of God speaking in these “last days.” So there are two phases of God’s speaking. God spoke *before* the coming of His Son into the world, and, in a superior way, He spoke *through* His Son Jesus Christ coming into the world.

Note: God is speaking. Some of you grew up with a father that didn’t ever communicate. The heavenly Father is not that way. He wants to connect with us. He is a person who speaks, and we are to listened to Him, understand Him, enjoy Him and obey Him.

So God spoke *before* the coming of His Son into the world, and then He spoke in a superior way *through* the coming of His Son Jesus into the world.

### **Hebrews 1:2 - In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...**

The “last days” are the days we’re living in now. The “last days” started in Bethlehem at the first coming of Christ, and they will end at the Second Coming of Christ. During that period what God intends to do in, for, with and through us, He will do through His Son Jesus Christ. For the 70, 80 or 90 years that we are on this earth, God’s purposes and plans for us are all wrapped up in His Son Jesus Christ.

So there is His superiority. Next notice...

## **2. HIS DESTINY (v.2)**

**Hebrews 1:2 - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things...**

People sometimes ask, “What's the world coming to?” It's coming to Jesus. He's the heir of all things. In the end, Jesus gets it all. In the end He will have complete control and ownership over everything in the universe, in time and in eternity. Every knee will bow to Him and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. God the Father designated that His Son would be the One to whom everything is left.

Now that's how the story ends. Next we go all the way back to see how it began. It will all end with Jesus, and it all began with Him. Notice ...

## **3. HIS CREATIVITY (v.2)**

**Hebrews 1:2 - but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.**

Did you know that about Christ? The Son existed before He came to this earth, born in Bethlehem. The Bible says that in the beginning of time God spoke and the universe came into existence. And that word God spoke was His Son, through whom God made the universe.

**John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

So you and I owe our very existence to Christ. Also notice...

## **4. HIS GLORY (v.3)**

**Hebrews 1:3a - The Son is the radiance of God's glory ...**

When God the Father decided to finally and completely display His glory, His moral brilliance, He did it by sending His Son. So when you see Jesus, you are seeing the outshining of all God's magnificent qualities.

Paul puts it this way...

**2 Corinthians 4:6 - For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

Note: How do we “see” Jesus this way? We see it by reading about His life and teachings in the NT. But we also “see” it as we walk with Christ by His Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

So there's something about His glory. Also notice...

## **5. HIS PERSONALITY (v.3)**

**Hebrews 1:3a - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...**

Now we study these phrases individually, but we must also see them together. When it says that Christ is the exact representation of God's being, that tells us that to see Christ is to see God. Jesus said in John 14:9, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." When God set out to leave an impression of Himself on this world, He did it through Jesus.

**Colossians 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

**Colossians 1:19 - For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,**

**Colossians 2:9 - For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,**

You cannot have a relationship with God apart from having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Next, notice...

## **6. HIS ENERGY (v.3)**

**Hebrews 1:3a - The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...**

Now earlier we saw that Jesus *created* everything. This tells us that Jesus *controls* everything by His powerful Word. This is one of the things Jesus is doing right now.

John Piper observes this about this verse: "Why is this included here? Why mention that the whole universe hangs on the word of Christ for its moment-by-moment existence? Because it would be a great mistake to think that we depend on Christ only for our purification and not for our very existence."

He goes on to say that there are two things that might keep you from entering heaven and enjoying the glory of God for eternity. One is if your sins were not forgiven. Of course, Jesus takes care of that when we put our trust in what He did on the Cross. The other thing that could keep you from getting to heaven is if you went out of existence. And Christ has that covered as well.

Jesus Christ through the energy of His Word holds the entire universe together. He holds your very body together right now. You may think, "Well I don't feel to 'together' today." Well stop to think about this: If Jesus were to stop sustaining all things by the power of His Word, you and I would cease to exist, as would the entire universe. So there's something about His energy. Next there's something about...

## **7. HIS MINISTRY (v.3)**

**Hebrews 1:3b - After he had provided purification for sins...**

We're talking here about the great ministry of Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection. It says He provided "purification for sins." That means that we have been contaminated and made impure because of our sins – all of us – and we need purification. That sin separates us from God. But God so desired a relationship with us that He sent His Son into this world, born of a virgin, living a sinless life so that He could die as the perfect sacrifice to cover the guilt of our sins.

**Titus 2:14 - who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

That's the great ministry of Jesus providing purification for our sins.

## **8. HIS MAJESTY (v.3)**

**Hebrews 1:3b - After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**

As I said earlier, the book of Hebrews compares Jesus to all the aspects of the Law of the OT. In the OT times the priest would go into the sanctuary of the tabernacle or later, the Temple. And he would offer sacrifices day after day after day. His work was never finished because those sacrifices did not provide complete purification for the sins of the people. So he had to keep doing it over and over. Remember there were different types of furnishings in the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. But there's one piece of furniture that was not found in the sanctuary ... a chair. There was no place for the priest to sit down, because his work was never finished. But Jesus is better. When He died on the Cross as final and complete sacrifice for our sins, He rose again and went and sat down in the place of majesty next to God the Father.

And what is Christ doing at the right hand of the Father? He is reigning over all things, awaiting the final day when His last enemies will be put at His feet. But He is doing something else ... He is also praying and interceding for us.

**Romans 8:34 - Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

## **CONCLUSION**

So in light of this great revelation of God through His Son Jesus Christ, and in light of all Christ is, here's what I'm asking you to do:

**First, know Him intimately.** It starts with a personal relationship with Christ. If you aren't saved, do you see today why that is so important? You miss Jesus, you miss God. Know Christ intimately.

Soak your life in the revelation of Christ in the Bible so that the knowledge of Christ ultimately saturates all you are. Walk with Him by His Spirit and get to know Christ better and better.

**Second, speak to Him repeatedly.** Knowing Christ means having a conversational relationship with Him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Third, speak of Him freely.** If you really adore someone you can't help but speak freely about Him. This Christmas season tell of the great things God has done in Christ.

**Fourth, surrender to Him completely.** If you really understand what this Scripture teaches about who Christ is, we understand that there is no one or nothing worthy to be at the center of our lives but Him.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Someone has observed that our hearts are like a board room with a committee sitting around a table. Seated at this table is our social self, our private self, our work self, our sexual self, our recreational self, our religious self, and others. The committee is always arguing and debating about what you should do. That's why as humans we feel there's always a battle going on inside of us. And the truth is that because there is this struggle going on in our hearts we divided and out of focus.

One solution would be to accept Jesus ... to invite Him to the table. And one way is to invite him onto the "committee." Give him a vote equal to all the other agendas. That won't solve your problem. There will always be a battle between our flesh and the Spirit of Christ. The other way to "accept Jesus" is to say to him, "My life isn't working. Please come in and fire my committee, every one of them. I hand myself over to you. I surrender to You completely. Please run my whole life for me."