

the TREASURY

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God Speaks... By His Son...

... but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. – Hebrews 1:2-4.

Hebrews chapter 1 tells us that God speaks to us through his Son but who is this Son and why should we listen to Him?

The letter was written to a group of Christians who had been converted from Judaism but now, possibly because of persecution, were thinking of going back to their old way of life, to the rituals of the Old Covenant.

The writer is at pains to show these Christians that the Lord Jesus Christ is superior to anything that the old way has to offer. Indeed, for us today The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than anything this world can offer.

He reminds us that Jesus is superior to Angels; that He is greater than Moses; He is a greater high priest and the sacrifice He offers, that is Himself, is superior to the blood of bulls and goats. He explains how the New Covenant, promised in the Old Testament, is far superior to the Old one.

Alongside these demonstrations of the superiority of the Lord Jesus

by Ian Hayward



Christ we also see many encouragements and warnings to the people. They were facing persecution from the Romans and from other Jews so were considering giving up on Jesus. He encourages them to persevere and warns them of the dangers of falling away.

Here in chapter 1, after telling us that God has spoken and that God still speaks, we find a description of the son of God; a description of the Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom God speaks to us. The writer tells us seven things about the Lord Jesus. We see something of his nature (radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his image); we see something of his continuing work in the universe (creator and sustainer and heir of all things) and something of his work in redemption (He provided purification for sin and has sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. In the rest of the chapter the writer backs up these claims Jesus by quoting the Hebrew scriptures that his readers were familiar with.

Heir of all things

He is the Son who will inherit all things, not like the meek who will inherit the earth, but he will inherit the entire cosmos and the entire heavenly realms; it will all be His.

Jesus himself states this 'all things have been committed to me by my father', 'all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me', 'the father loves the Son and has placed everything in His hands'.

Creator and sustainer

He is the creator of all things: 'through him all things were made without him nothing was made that was made' later on in Hebrews we read 'by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command' and Paul reminds us 'by him all things were created things in heaven and on earth visible and invisible whether thrones or authorities, all things were created by him and for him'. And then we read He sustains all things; He is before all things and in him all things hold together. How does He sustain all things? By his powerful word. In creation God spoke and it was done. It is by his word that the planets are kept in orbit it is

by his word that trees grow it is by his word that a child develops, we may be able to describe how the universe works but we cannot make anything happen.

In saying this the writer is equating Jesus with God and emphasising to his Jewish readers just who Jesus is. Do we have this picture of Jesus ourselves or is our picture of Christ limited to a baby in a Manger, simply a good teacher or miracle worker? Do we confine him to our restricted experience or limited knowledge, or do we see him as the great creator and sustainer and heir of all things?

The radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being

These aspects reflect the oneness of Christ with God, part of the glory of the Trinity. We see the radiance or out-shining of God's glory. It refers to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ who 'radiates' the Father to us. 'In him was life and that life was the light of men, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness is not overcome by it. He is not simply a reflection of it.

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THIS LENT, COULD YOU...

 Take up alternative forms of transport?	 Give up single use plastics?	 Live locally?
 Buy nothing new?	 Give up meat?	 Reduce your energy use by 10%?

TO CHANGE YOUR IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE!

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AT LIVINGLENT.ORG

 

Time to celebrate: the Women's Mission Rallies

The month of May will be upon us soon and understandably this is a very busy month in the Women's Sub-committee calendar with four Mission Rallies held across Wales (two English and two Welsh Rallies)

The English Rallies will be held this year at Newport and Mancott. The South Wales Rally committee are looking forward to welcoming you all to Trinity, Malpas Court on May 13th. The speaker will be Mr Trevor Grant from the Leprosy Mission.

The Association in the East Northern Presbytery are extending a very warm welcome to you to attend a Celebration of

Mission at Mancott Church on May 20th. The Pastorate ladies are preparing a special day to celebrate and focus on local Mission work.

At both Rallies the Women's Sub-committee theme for 2020-21 will be launched. The verse from John 10 'I am the Good Shepherd' will be prominent throughout the service and once again this year a theme book will be produced. The theme book will include updates on our Overseas Projects. During the past few years we have been able, through your generosity, to give a substantial amount of money to Reaching Romania; Tebellow Hospital, HIV

Lesotho; Cornerstone Uganda; HIV Counsellor for K Ward Synod Hospital, Mizoram and Singapore English Presbytery Japan Mission. We have also been able to support several projects here in Wales. Last year two youth workers with UCCF; a Day care centre in a small Church; a Baby Basics group in Denbigh and two children's clubs in South Wales all received small grants towards their work. These grants from the Women's Mission Collection has enabled them to continue the work they provide locally.

If you would like to contribute towards the Mission Collection



Eirian Roberts

please ask your Church secretary or treasurer for details or a member of your Presbytery Women's committee. You can also contact the Women's office in Bala if you would like to learn more about the projects we support or how you can apply for a grant. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity.

We pray that the two services at Newport and Mancott will not only be an opportunity to present the Women's work, but also a time to praise the Lord and a time of fellowship. Please note these dates in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you.

Eirian Roberts
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The North East Wales Organising Committee met in Hawarden during February to organise the rally on 20th May. Left to Right: Eirian Roberts, Jean Paley, Joyce Dodd, Carys Davies, Diane Harris, Christine Hodgins, Nan Powell Davies, Maureen Roberts.

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God's glory. If we compare it to the sun and the moon: the sun radiates energy, light and other forms, it is the source of its energy and radiance; however, when we look at the Moon we see the Sun's reflected light. Jesus does not reflect God's glory he shines with God's glory. The disciples saw his glory, John reminds us 'we beheld His glory the glory of the one and only who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

We also see that he is the exact representation of God's being. He shows exactly what God is like, He is an exact and perfect match of who God is.

Jesus Himself reminds us 'he who has seen Me has seen the Father. He also tells us that Isaiah had seen His glory in the temple so when a man looks at Christ he sees the one who sent Him.

Purifier and Perfecter

Now we move on to what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us, we focus on the work of redemption. The main emphasis is that the Lord Jesus by his death provided purification for our sins and that the work is finished, job done, nothing more needs to be done. In the Old Testament sacrifices had to be made continually but the

emphasis here is that Jesus has provided the sacrifice of Himself once and for all and now he is sat down at the right hand above. In the Old Testament the priest stood daily in the Tabernacle and could not sit. Jesus is at the father's right-hand interceding for us. Paul reminds Titus that Jesus 'gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and purify for himself a people'. We, having been purified by His blood can enter into God's presence, we are Kings and priests to God.

Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves. No one is able to fully keep the law so we cannot earn salvation, but Jesus says he who believes in

Me shall have eternal life. On the cross He cried 'it is finished', there is no more to be done, salvation has been won – Hallelujah, What a Saviour! This is the one who speaks to us. This is the one who has said, 'Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest'.

Who better is there to speak to us and who better is there for us to listen to? Why listen to others, why have doubts about His word as the readers of the letter were.

Chapter two begins with a warning that we don't drift away and asks the question, 'How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?'