

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 1

Commentaries on Hebrews - amongst the most useful:-

'Hebrews for Everyone' (SPCK) - Tom Wright

'Opening Up Hebrews' (Day One) - Philip Hacking

'A Glorious High Throne' (Evangelical Press) - Edgar Andrews

'Christ Above All' (IVP) - Raymond Brown

Hebrews 1 v4 - 14

Key Text - v4

Key Question - How big is Jesus to you? Is He becoming bigger, and bigger, and bigger to you?

Key Point - How big Jesus is to us (big enough to deal with our biggest problems) will determine whether or not we will be able to press on, faithfully and steadfastly, in our Christian lives.

Context to this passage which is all about angels - These Christian believers were being tempted, in the face of persecution, to downgrade / downsize Jesus, making Him less than he really and truly was. For these believers with their Jewish background (who had a fascination for angelology) it was for them to say that Jesus was no more than angel - perhaps, at the very most, the greatest of the angels.

Application for us - In an increasingly pluralistic society (multi-cultural / multi-faith) we are increasingly being tempted to downgrade / downsize Jesus - to say that Jesus is not Lord and God alone, and to say that He is not the only way to eternal life.

1. THE ANGELS - THEIR INFERIORITY TO JESUS

What are angels - what do they do and what are they like? See - v4. The angels are the servants of God. What do they do?

A. THE ANGELS SERVE GOD BY SINGING HIS PRAISES

See - Rev 5 v11 - 12

B. THE ANGELS SERVE GOD BY DELIVERING HIS MESSAGES

See - Lk 2 v10

C. THE ANGELS SERVE GOD BY PROTECTING HIS PEOPLE

See - 2 Kgs 6 v8f

D. THE ANGELS SERVE GOD BY ANNOUNCING HIS JUDGEMENTS

See - 1 Thess 4 v16

What are the angels like? See - v7 - "winds" & "flames of fire". They are awesome beings - and yet.....

'Despite all their cosmic excellencies, their significance dwindles in the presence of Christ.'

2. JESUS - HIS SUPERIORITY TO THE ANGELS

How do these Old Testament passage speak about Jesus - what do they focus on?

A. HIS DEITY

See - v4 - 5. What do the angels do before the Son? They worship Him. See - v6.

B. HIS MAJESTY

See - v8 - 9

C. HIS ETERNITY

See - v10 - 12

D. HIS DESTINY

See - v13 & Phil 2 v10 - 11

Jesus superiority over the angels is seen most clearly in the way in which the angels do the bidding of Jesus in protecting His believing people. See - v14