

Title: JESUS WHO? HEBREWS 1:1-4
(Chatham, NJ; 10/04/15, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: God's word, his authority, and his love are all revealed in Jesus Christ.

Purpose: To demonstrate how this is the foundation of the Christian faith and why all men should follow him.

Introduction:

1. Why do we follow Jesus?
2. The Book of Hebrews answers that question.
3. For a group that is wavering in its faith, he begins his exhortation with basic teachings about the nature of the one they follow.
4. Because Jesus is Lord, our allegiance and our obedience belong to him.
5. These reasons not only provide the foundation for our faith but can also be the foundation of our witness to others, the reason for the hope that is in you.

I. God Spoke Through Him, 1:2

- A. God reveals himself in numerous ways
 1. Psalm 19:1, the heavens declare the glory of God.
 2. Romans 1:20, God's attributes have been revealed in creation
 3. One of the reasons science developed so fully in western civilization is because Christianity believes that God created an orderly universe that can be explored
 4. And because he is also a personal God, he invites that sort of investigation
- B. An invitation to hear God speak
 1. Isaiah 1:18, "Come, let us reason together."
 2. Though Isaiah calls for this to discuss the sins of the people, it can still be seen as an invitation to enter dialogue with God.
 3. The prophets usually prefaced their remarks with, "Thus says the Lord."
 4. When Israel was punished it wasn't because God never gave them the opportunity to hear his voice; 2 Kings 17:13-14 sums up the problem: despite the words of the prophets, "They would not listen."
 5. It is remarkable that God bothers to speak and communicate with people.
- C. Affirmed by Miracles, Hebrews 2:2-4
 1. Just in case you weren't sure you could trust these words, God affirmed them
 2. Miracles are like signposts: Moses, Elijah and Elisha, and finally Jesus
 3. Remember that God spoke through him
 4. From turning water to wine, to walking on the water, to healings, to raising people from the dead, his powers affirmed that God was with him

II. He Is God, 1:3

- A. More than just another prophet
 1. John 1:1 says he was God
 2. He was present at creation, 1:3 – all things made through him
 3. Prophets may speak on behalf of God, but for God to come in person raises the importance of the words
 4. The Word became flesh (1:14) and he has revealed the Father (1:18)
 5. His resurrection was the crowning achievement and proof of his divinity
- B. Upholds the universe, Hebrews 1:3
 1. Colossians 1:17 says in him all things hold together

2. Many people today would like to say that Christians are on the wrong side of history, that history is leading to an unchangeable end that excludes religion and includes all manner of moral changes
3. Akin to what C. S. Lewis called “chronological snobbery,” whatever is old is out of date and irrelevant
4. We assert another historical force: Revelation 5:1-5 says it is only Jesus who is worthy to break the seals and reveal the future.
5. The future, history, and the very existence of the universe is in His hands
6. This is what we believe, preach, and live by
7. Because he is God, he is the power behind all that is

III. He Has All Authority, Heb. 1:3-4

A. Jesus stakes a claim to our allegiance

1. Heb. 1:3-4, at God’s right hand and higher than the angels
2. Matthew 28:18, “All authority has been given to me”
3. Eph. 1:22, God has put all things under his feet
4. For the skeptics among his detractors, Jesus demonstrated powers beyond anything they had seen, Mark 2:1-12 – authority to heal and forgive
5. Other powers attributed to God necessarily follow this

B. Supersedes all other authorities

1. We live in an age when personal autonomy trumps all other things: we are the arbiters of meaning, morality, and importance
2. In some cultures tribal associations trump all else
3. But by his deeds, his nature, and his claims Jesus lassos our allegiance
4. God told Israel, “You shall have no other gods”
5. Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”
6. We endanger ourselves when we don’t give him our undivided loyalty

Conclusion:

1. One final thing: Jesus provided purification for sins, Heb. 1:3.
2. This is nothing less than reconciling sinful creatures to the God who created them.
3. This reveals a God who wants fellowship with us: not only has he spoken, but he has also created the means to be freed from the judgment that our sins have caused.
4. Behind the demands, the authority, and his words stands a God who cares.
5. This is the most remarkable things of all, and it is why we should always give our undivided allegiance and loyalty to him.