

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 16, 2024

“Christ Is Better”

By Jarrod M. Jacobs

The book of Hebrews was written to keep the Hebrew Christians from returning to Judaism (Hebrews 6:4-6). One argument we see throughout the book is that Christ is “better.” These folks had a unique problem in that they were not only persecuted by Rome for being Christians, but their families and fellow Jews also persecuted them for renouncing Judaism!

Therefore, this book encourages them to remain faithful to the end by showing how Christ and their relationship to Him is better than anything else (Hebrews 3:14, 10:32-39). Let us survey the book and see in what ways Christ is “better.”

He Is Better Than Angels.

As we read the book of Hebrews, we find that one way in which these people were encouraged to continue in faithfulness was by showing them that as Christians when they forsook family and friends to follow Christ (Matthew 10:34-39), they were following One not only better than any man; but One better than angels! The book of Hebrews begins by stating that Christ is *“so much better than the angels”* (Hebrews 1:4).

God had not fulfilled His plan of salvation through an angel or a plurality of angels, but through One even *“better”* than angels — Christ (Jn. 3:16; Hebrews 1:2-4)!

He Is Better Than Moses.

In this book, we find Christ contrasted with Moses. Jesus is *“worthy of more glory than Moses”* (Hebrews 3:3). While Moses was a *“faithful servant”* in God’s house, we see Jesus described as *“a son over his own house”* (Hebrews 3:5-6).

In fact, Jesus made a point of telling people that Moses wrote of Him (Jn. 5:46-47) and they needed to *“search the scriptures”* to find out this truth (Jn. 5:39). In the Hebrew letter, we see that Jesus is better than Moses in many ways. This will be made more evident as we continue our study.

He Has A Better Priesthood Than Aaron’s.

In chapter five, Christ is contrasted with Aaron. At this time, we are shown how Christ’s priesthood is better than Aaron’s. In contrast with Aaron, who was born into the family of Levi and became a high priest, Jesus’ priesthood is an everlasting priesthood *“after the order of Melchizedek”* (Hebrews 5:6, 10, 6:20, 7:17, 21).

In chapter five, we are reminded of the incident in Genesis 14 where Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek after the battle of the kings and the rescue of Lot (Gen. 14:20). The explanation of Christ’s priesthood continues into the seventh chapter of Hebrews. Here, the Holy Spirit notes how the Levites received tithes of the people (7:5). Yet, in Genesis 14, it was Abraham (Levi’s great-grandfather) who gave tithes to Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:6)! God made the point that due to Abraham paying tithes to Melchizedek, by extension, it was also Levi paying tithes to Melchizedek (7:9-10). So, for Jesus to be a *“priest forever after the order of Melchizedek”* actually gives Him a *“better”* priesthood, for *“the less is blessed of the better”* (7:7).

This was also a better priesthood than Aaron's, for Christ was made a priest by God's oath. In contrast, the Levites became priests without an oath (7:20-21). Christ could not be a priest on earth, for He was of the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Yet, God was able, through a change of the law, to make Him a better priest with an unchangeable priesthood!

He Gives A Better Hope.

Within Hebrews 7, we also read of the "*better hope*" in Christ (7:19). That verse shows us that the Law of Moses could not provide for a "*better hope*," but Jesus could! Through this "*better hope*," folks can "*draw nigh to God*"!

This is yet another reason for the Hebrew Christians to continue in their service and faithfulness to Christ. If they tried to return to the Old Law, they would have no access to that better hope, for it is only found in Christ! For this same reason, James wrote to Christians and told them, "*Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you...*" (Jas. 4:8). When Christ brought a "*better hope*," men were then able to "*draw nigh to God*"!

He Has A Better Testament.

Another "*better*" thing found in Hebrews 7 is that in Christ, we have a "*better testament*" (7:22). This is repeated in Hebrews 8:6. It is said that Christ is "*the mediator of a better covenant established upon better promises*"! What a beautiful thought! The new covenant that Christ brought into being is better than the previous covenant, and those of us living after Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension can take full advantage of this "*better covenant*"!

He Offered A Better Sacrifice.

While continuing to convince the Hebrew Christians to remain faithful to the Lord, they were also reminded of the "*better sacrifices*" offered in Christ (Hebrews 9:23). In Old Testament days, sacrifices of bulls, goats, turtledoves, sheep, etc., were offered to God. Blood from sacrificial animals was sprinkled for the people, for "*almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission*" (Hebrews 9:22). Yet, Christ offered a "*better sacrifice*"! In this case, our high priest became the sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 9:14, 26). He offered Himself once and for all (Hebrews 10:10, 12) and applied His blood in Heaven for us (Hebrews 9:24, 10:19). Hebrews 12:24 says Christ's blood "*speaks better things than that of Abel*"! Indeed, His sacrifice became the better sacrifice by which we can obtain salvation and look forward to Heaven when this life is over!

He Gives A Better And Enduring Substance.

Read Hebrews 10:34 and realize that, in context, these people had suffered much for Christ. They had "*endured a great fight of affliction*," "*were made a gazingstock*," "*became companions of them that were so used*," and "*took joyfully the spoiling of your goods*" (Hebrews 10:32-34). Yet, as bad as this was, they were encouraged to continue in Christ, for in Him, a "*better and enduring substance*" awaited them. He continues by saying they had "*great recompense of reward*" (Hebrews 10:35). What encouragement! Such things should have helped them see past the terrible but momentary problems in this life and focus on Heaven. Hebrews 11 says that it was to Heaven, the "*better country*," that those great faith heroes looked while they endured hardships and suffered (Hebrews 11:16).

The words of encouragement given to the Hebrews ought to encourage us. As Jesus said, "*he that endureth to the end shall be saved*" (Matthew 10:22). This promise is made to the Jewish Christians and anyone who belongs to Christ! Therefore, let us be ready to endure our problems and temptations, and remember, "*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matthew 6:19-21). The apostle Peter also wrote about this, telling Christians that they have "*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you*" (1 Peter 1:4). Truly, it is a "*better and enduring substance*" that awaits the child of God in eternity!

He Promised A Better Resurrection

Continuing to read Hebrews 11, we find some folks who suffered terrible tortures for God. In their suffering, we see folks who did not flinch nor try to run from the pain and suffering. Rather, "*... others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection*" (Hebrews 11:35).

This passage touches my heart in many ways. Notice that there were folks who endured trials and tortures, including death, because they knew there was a "*better resurrection*" to come. Friends, can we understand that because of Christ, those who have obeyed His plan of salvation can also look forward to that "*better resurrection*"? There is something far better than being released from a prison cell or even from a torturer's whip. At most, all those people can do is kill you (Matthew 10:28). There is a better resurrection to come. Jesus guaranteed that will happen one day (1 Corinthians 15:20-24).

He Is The Better Thing.

Don't forget to read Hebrews 11:40! The "*better thing*" of this passage ties together the above passages we have studied and prepares us for the description of Christ in Hebrews 12:1-2!

Conclusion

Can we see why it was important that the Jewish Christians remained faithful to God? Friend, remember that Christ needs to be the focus of all we do! We Christians are recipients of these blessings in Christ. Can you think of anything “better” than being a Christian? I can’t!

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Nathan Cox, Anita Harris, Fred Johnson, Bill Hall, and Ammanda Holland (Savannah’s Mom).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Dan Cottrell
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>“Christ Calls Us To Be: SERVANTS”</i>

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:	Jerry Kennemur Hebrews
Author:	Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page 19, Question #14</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Blake Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading:	<i>John 15:9</i>
Song Leader:	Jerry Kennemur
Lord’s Supper:	Danny Sheffield
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>“A Father’s Love”</i>
Closing Prayer:	Paul Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 19, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
Workbook:	The Minor Prophets
Author:	By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #18, Question #1</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer:	Blake Briggs

Christ Calls Us To Be: “SERVANTS”

Lesson Text: **Philippians 2:5-12.**

I. Who Is A Servant?

— *doulos* (δοῦλος, 1401), from *deo*, “to bind,” “a slave,” originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, came also to mean “one who gives himself up to the will of another,” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 73).

— We Are All Called To Be Servants/Slaves Of The Lord- **Galatians 5:13.**

— A Servant Does The Will Of His Master- **Luke 12:47.**

— We Cannot Escape Being A Servant:

- Either Serving God Or Satan- **Rom. 6:16-18.**

— What Words Come To mind With Servant?

— Being A Good Or Bad Servant Is Rooted In One’s Character And Attitudes.

II. We Should Serve— As Jesus Served.

— Jesus Was The Perfect Example Of God’s Servant— Perfect Character & Attitudes.

- Why Paul Said, “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*” (Philippians 2:5).

- **1 Corinthians 11:1; Luke 6:40.**

— Jesus Had The Right Attitude Toward The Work Given Him.

- **Luke 2:49; John 8:29; John 9:4; John 12:49-50.**

— Jesus Was Devoted To The Work Of God- **Matthew 6:33; John 4:34.**

— Jesus Was Motivated By Love For All- **John 15:10; 15:13.**

— Jesus Served Others Without Partiality- **Matthew 22:15-16; Ephesians 6:9.**

— Jesus Was Selfless & Humble In Doing The Father’s Will- **John 6:38; 13:2-17.**

— Jesus Fully Carried Out The Work Zealously.

- How Jesus Carried Out The Work- **John 17:4; 19:30.**

- Zealously- **John 21:25.**

— Jesus Was The Faithful Servant Of God- **Hebrews 3:1-2.**

III. Learning To Be The Right Kind Of Servant Is Not Easy.

— We Have To Cast Off The Thinking Of This World.

— We Must Deny Selfishness and Worldly Ambition.

- Jesus’ Disciples Had To Be Taught This- **Mark 9:33-36; Matthew 18:2-4; 20:25-28.**

— We Must Put Away Hate, Partiality, And Prejudice- **Ephesians 4:31.**

- **2 Timothy 2:24.**

- Must Serve With Love- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3.**

— We Must Fight Laziness, Apathy, And Distractions In Our Lives-

- **Matthew 25:26; Romans 12:11; Luke 8:14-15.** Which Will We Be?

— We Must Not Deny Him Or Leave The Work— But Be Faithful Servants.

- **Matthew 25:21; 23.**

“A Father’s Love”

I. Provides What’s Necessary For His Family.

- A. Our Heavenly Father provides for us our needs (**Matthew 5:45; 7:9-11**).
- B. Earthly fathers provides material necessities for the family to function well (**Gen. 3:17-19**).
 - (1) His role to work as the main “bread winner” for the family; mothers can contribute also.
 - (2) Provides Shelter, Protection, Security, and needs:
 - a. Home, Food, clothing, cell phones, transportation, paying bills— all requires money.
- C. Love = Sacrifice for the sake of the family.
 - (1) Why he goes out everyday he works— time, service, selfless-effort...
- D. Proper to do so— **1 Timothy 5:8**, Even unbelievers *know* to take care of their family!
- E. That’s why the selfish, the lazy, the uncaring, or the neglectful father doesn’t show love.
- F. But fulfilling our responsibilities in this way is one of the most loving things a father can do!

II. Shows His Children An Example To Follow.

- A. Our Heavenly Father gives us an example to Follow (**Ephesians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16**).
- B. Our earthly father is to be our example growing up:
 - (1) What a compassionate, kind, loving father looks like. (**Psalm 103:8-13**)
 - (2) What a true picture of manhood ought to be (**1 Kings 2:2**). (“Like father, like son”)
 - (3) Many young men have lost this because of absentee fathers, with harmful results!
- C. A loving father is an example of:
 - (1) Zeal in what he does— Not lazy (**Proverbs 19:15; Ecclesiastes 9:10**).
 - (2) A true Christian (**1 Timothy 4:12**) “*in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity...*”
 - (3) A good heart of forgiveness, humility, self control— not hating, lying, wrathful, addicted to drugs or alcohol, jealous, nor rude or crude (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Luke 15:20-24**).

III. Imparts Guidance & Wisdom For Living.

- A. Our Heavenly Father imparts guidance and wisdom to His children (**Prov. 2:6-7; James 1:5**).
- B. Earthly fathers also pass on their knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that only comes from years of experience (**Proverbs 16:31; Proverbs 20:29**).
- C. How life works, knowledge by trial & error, mechanic troubleshooting, carpentry, relationship issues, cooking, sewing, practical things & spiritual knowledge. Save a lot of time and trouble if they listen.

IV. Sets Rules & Boundaries To Obey.

- A. Our Heavenly Father sets rules and boundaries to obey (**John 15:9-10; 1 John 5:2-3**).
- B. Our earthly father sets rules and boundaries too (**Ephesians 6:1-2**).
 - (1) Parents set bed time, limits on entertainment, curfew or time to be home, when and where the eat meals, to be respectful, no fighting with sister or brother, no name calling....
 - (2) May not understand why they can’t: play with fire, play in the road, water balloon fight in house.

V. Corrects & Disciplines Wrong Behavior.

- A. Our Heavenly Father Corrects and disciplines wrong behavior (**Hebrews 12:5-7; Revelation 3:19**).
- B. Our earthly father is to discipline and correct too (**Proverbs 13:24; Eph. 6:4**).
- C. It is painful (for kids and parents) but it has a purpose and desired outcome (**Hebrews 12:11**).
- D. Discipline is to be done correctly to avoid discouragement (**Ephesians 6:4a; Col. 3:21**).

VI. Encourages Children To Do Their Best.

- A. Our Heavenly Father encourages us to do our best (**Romans 15:5**).
- B. Our earthly father is an encourager to his children (**1 Thessalonians 2:11**).
- C. Don’t ever underestimate the power of a little encouragement— it goes a long way!
It can make the difference between success and failure, trying all the way or never starting, defeatist or positive att.
- D. **Philippians 4:13**; Too much pessimism in the world; Christian fathers pass this positively on to kids!

VII. Leads His Children To Their Heavenly Father.

- A. Our Heavenly leads us to seek after Him (**Acts 17:26-28; Hebrews 11:6**).
- B. Our earthly father teaches us to have faith in the God above, who is our Father (**Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Acts 16:31-34**) The jailor brought his whole house to the Lord.
- C. Fathers are to be the spiritual leader and take family to church services— worship.