

GOD'S FINAL WORD // Hebrews 1:1-3

Message from Pastor Jimmy Newkirk

The whole of God's character, his nature, and his work are in perfect alignment. This is not the case with us. Our words thoughts and actions testify against us—we don't always act in accordance with what we believe.

The problem is that we don't see God properly; we cannot, in a sense, get our arms entirely around him. If we saw him properly, we would live our lives differently. You cannot believe rightly and live wrongly, and you cannot believe wrongly and live rightly.

To live rightly, we are to live in awe of God's character. When we see God properly, we respond properly in awe and worship.

1. God has been active.

All of creation was made by him. God exists outside of time, space, and matter because he created them, and he sustains them all. Beyond that, he stepped into time, space, and matter in the person of Jesus Christ.

We think the world is all about us. We may not outwardly admit this, but if we observe how self-absorbed we are, we recognize this truth. This is pride—we want attention, but we need to pay attention to God. We give our worship to things other than God.

God wants us to put first things first. Nothing is greater than him. He is worthy of our attention and affections. He is of the greatest importance.

2. God has revealed himself through his creation.

All of creation testifies of God. We do not have to wonder where he is. He tells us. He shows himself in nature. He wants us to know him and have a relationship with him. He has revealed himself "at many times and in many ways"—but all through one story.

In these last days, he has spoken to us in his Son. What was previously spoken was inerrant, but incomplete; it was promise, but not fulfillment. In these last days—the Messianic days where we've been since the cross—what God said has now been made visible in Christ. In Jesus we have the true revelation of God. God spoke lastly and most importantly by his Son. Jesus is the Word.

3. Jesus Christ reveals God's nature by his work.

Because it is his nature to create and sustain, he has taken up the work to make purification for sins. The Son's work is complete. The final word has been spoken. God's radiance has been expressed. Because he was fully God and fully man, he can make this payment. He made purification for sins because it is his nature to do so. Because he is just, payment had to be made; because he is loving, he made the payment himself. Purification means to cleanse or to purge. Purification required a perfect sacrifice, which only he could do. He annulled our sin by his sacrifice. Having done this, he sits down at the right hand of the father, and he sits because his work is complete. No priest could ever claim they were finished—more sacrifices were always needed. Jesus made the perfect payment.

Verse 4 tells us that Jesus became superior. Wasn't he already superior? Yes, the Bible tells us that he was superior to angels, to Abraham, the priests, the temple, the Law. This verse in Hebrews does not mean he rose to a new level. It means he proved his superiority.

Because Jesus doesn't change, he is the final word of God. There is no need for any new revelation. He is the final expression, the final word.

We need to see God rightly and dwell on his revelation. When we see God rightly, we begin to see ourselves properly, and to think rightly. Humility can be defined as honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness. The result should be worship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What practices help us to "see God rightly"? What kind of evidence might indicate that we are seeing him for who he really is?
2. How can we cultivate humility, seeing ourselves rightly, in our lives? What will change when we do so?
3. Why is it important that we understand Jesus to be both fully God and fully man? Why would the atonement not have been possible if this were not so?