

Family Devotional Guide
For the Week of January 16, 2012

Do You Really Understand Who Jesus Is? (Hebrews 1.1-3)

Monday: Jesus is the purpose of creation. Along with the text of Hebrews, read Colossians 1.16, focusing on the phrase, “all things were created by him and for him.” Discuss God’s sovereign claim over us if all things (including us) were created “for him.”

Tuesday: The word translated, “world,” in Hebrews 1.2 means the ages of the world’s time. The text clearly tells us that God designated to Christ all the ages of this world. In other words, Jesus is in control. In what situation have you noticed the control of Christ? Are you seeking to take control from Christ?

Wednesday: Last Sunday’s text emphasizes the incarnation. Think about God becoming flesh. Think about how He limited Himself; how He veiled His glory; how He shared our humanity. While it is impossible for our minds to comprehend all that the incarnation involves, we can be thankful for His identification with us.

Thursday: Verse 3 says, “when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down.” What does the fact that Jesus purged our sins by Himself tell us of His nature? How could He purge our sins by Himself? Why would He?

Friday: When Jesus sat down, a finished work was indicated. The Old Testament priests, in the old tabernacle, had no place to sit. Their work would never be complete – no rest. The sacrificial system of the Old Covenant could not purge sins for eternity. Jesus sat down when He offered His own blood for our sins. Our salvation is secure – it rests in the finished work of Christ. Rejoice and be thankful for our eternal Savior!

Saturday: Tomorrow we will consider Hebrews 1.4 and look at the “more excellent name,” of Jesus. Read Hebrews 1.1-13 and think about the person of Jesus. Pray that tomorrow will be a day when FBCOS gathers together and corporately worships our Savior.

Further thoughts on the Book of Hebrews . . .

In the book of Hebrews there are five parenthetical sections known as “warning passages.” They are as follows:

1. The Danger of Drifting (2.1-4)
2. The Danger of Dis-believing (3.7 – 4.13)
3. The Danger of Dullness (5.11 – 6.12)
4. The Danger of Dis-crediting (10.26-39)
5. The Danger of Defilement (12.15-29)

An interesting approach to reading through Hebrews is to read the entire book, bypassing these sections. If one is reading through Hebrews beginning in chapter one, he naturally comes to chapter 2 verse 1, - if he skips the first four verses of chapter 2, and picks up at verse 5, he will see that the flow of the book continues. The subject is resumed and even though verses are skipped, the subject matter is maintained and the reading still makes sense. One will find this to be the case with all five of these passages. This is because they are parenthetical. It is like the author stops and says, “by the way, this is a good time to give you a warning.” He then resumes his subject.

It is unfortunate, but these five sections of Hebrews have been used as proof-texts by those who teach that salvation is not secure – that it can be lost. “Proof-texting” takes place when one uses a verse or passage of Scripture out of context to support a doctrine. Take note of where the logic of proof-texting leads: The Bible says, “Judas went out and hung himself.” The Bible also says, “Go and do thou likewise.” Do you see what proof-texting just proved? This is a ridiculous application of Scripture, it is proof-texting.

Here is a rule of Bible interpretation: If your interpretation of a difficult text conflicts or causes difficulty with the obvious meaning of a very clear text – then your interpretation is inaccurate. The Bible is the best commentary on the Bible. Let the Bible interpret the Bible.

As we come upon each of these warning texts in Hebrews, we will find that they are written to Christians and do not indicate that salvation can be lost at all. Rather they tell us of the seriousness of being accountable to God as His people.