

sermon notes Jan 11

Inbox

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DAVID JEWELL Wed 14 Jan, 13:57 (3 days ago)

to DAVID

Hebrews 1 v 1-14 'Jesus Christ is God's own Son' Lynch Jan 4th.

Well, we are at the start of 2026, and this may well be a significant year. The soccer FIFA world cup and cricket world cups will take place and there are important elections due in Brazil and Israel with US mid-terms taking place, which may prove pivotal to world peace. There is also encouraging news that many young adults are turning to church and are intent on discovering what this God Christians believe in is about. As Believers we have been so used to being on the back foot about our faith, unwilling to talk to friends and family about it, and yet there are those who are desperate to find meaning in life, to have their questions answered and their fears assuaged. One of the reasons I thought it timely to study excerpts of this letter to the Hebrews by an unknown author is to encourage you in your faith. No longer do we need to be embarrassed, no longer hiding our church attendance. Conversations about God are sprouting up all over the place and we now witness sporting superstars testifying to their faith in Jesus on TV, social media and in our newspapers! Arsenal football club are currently top of the Premier League and at least TEN of their first team squad openly identify as Christians! 2026 may well see a more dangerous world and as always there will be many cults working hard to bring more seekers into their worshipping fellowships.

The big question then for us as we enter a new sermon series in Hebrews is: 'Do we know the One we worship? Do we know who Jesus is? Muslims say they know who He is- a prophet, as do Jews, Hindus-

one of millions of deities, Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons. What about us? What about you? This is not an idle academic question but is supposed to be the bedrock of our lives. We call Jesus Christ our cornerstone, but who is He? I worship Jesus Christ above all else and I read and study the Bible to grow in my knowledge of who He is. As humans, we can often reveal sides of our character which may surprise or shock our nearest and dearest and getting to know Jesus is a much lengthier process without the shocks of a fallen human character! Jesus' words to His disciples recorded in Matthew's Gospel: "*Who do you say that I am?*". If you were asked by an acquaintance to define the character of your nearest and dearest, how would you start? I would hope that you may give some attractive qualities which inspire them to get to know your beloved more and it is the same with Jesus. **Talk about woman who saw Jesus in a tortilla she had made.**

I suppose we must start with who He is not! He is not, as the writer to the Hebrews immediately tells us, an angel, not even an archangel. Almost universally, everyone would say that they pray and that they believe in angels, but Jesus is far superior to an angel. Many will say that He was a good man, a wonderful moral teacher, but that doesn't cause them to fall down and worship Him! JW's believe that Jesus was created as an archangel, but that means that they cannot rely on Him completely for their salvation, so JW's are dependent on their works to hopefully get them into Heaven. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and in God's death, we are saved. Wholly reliant on His grace, we have been adopted into God's family whatever we have done. The bridge is complete between us and God through Jesus, not as Bishop Moule quoted when referring to religious cults: "A Saviour not quite God is a bridge broken at the farther end."

Some will say, "Well Jesus is God's Son, and it says that He was begotten, so surely that makes Him inferior to God the Father?" One of the most famous passages in the Bible declares: '*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes*

in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' I was confused by this statement as a child. However, as the writer to the Hebrews points out here, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has existed before the world began and for all eternity. The fact that we call Jesus the Son of God is to establish the relationship they have, an eternal one of equals sharing the same essential nature.

So, Jesus is not inferior to God, but He is superior to the angels. As it is written here, verse six: '*Let all of God's angels worship Him.*' We have studied the birth stories of Jesus recently and noted that there are a lot of news of angels-speaking to Mary and to Joseph, appearing before Zechariah, a vast number of them blessing the shepherds on the hillside. Then speaking to the wise men and again to Joseph. However, we can be sure that they are giving the messages which they have been sent to give. Again, as the writer declares: '*Angels are only servants-spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.*' So, we have looked at what Jesus is not.

So, who is He? Equal to God the Father, co-existing with Him eternally, creator of all we see and cannot see. Paul writes in Colossians chapter one: '*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.*' He goes on to say, '*God in all His fulness was pleased to live in Christ and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself.*' Note that Jesus restored the whole cosmos through His death and resurrection, it was not only about rescuing humans! Are there any differences between God the Son and God the Father? Their characteristics are essentially alike. Over Christmas our son, Tom and his wife, Poppy and son, Otis came to stay. Otis is two, but there are facets of his character which are so alike Tom's when he was two and I'm sure Poppy's mum would say that in many ways he reflects a young Poppy. God the Father and God the Son are much closer than that: Jesus declared to His disciples as recorded in John's Gospel: '*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you had really known me,*

you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him!"

Do those statements lead you to worship? To shout praises to God? During your daily lives, are there not times when your heart feels lifted and you recall a familiar hymn of worship? 'My Jesus, my Saviour'!

So, let's look at ten points of who Jesus is:

1. Equal to God the Father
2. Worshipped by angels
3. Creator of everything
4. When we see Jesus, we see God. No more, no less.
5. When Christ is revealed in our hearts we have come to know God.
6. There are no more stages in our knowledge. Yes, we can always be learning more, but there isn't some sort of hidden revelation. The revelation of Jesus Christ is the be all and end all, not as Mormons believe, that there have been new revelations by Joseph Smith!
7. He is totally on our side. He didn't come to judge us, but to save us! Romans 5 v 6 declares: '*When we were totally helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.*'
8. We get to know Him through reading the Bible and experiencing His presence in our hearts and lives.
9. It is essential for our salvation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. If He had been a form of angel or had come to appease an angry God, then our salvation would not stand during the wildest storms of life.
10. He is our cornerstone. We can build our lives on Him.