

December 17, 2006
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Hebrews 2:11-13

“Jesus Christ is Infinitely Better!”
Better than the Angels, Part Seven

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His Person (Chapters 1-7)
 - A. Better than the Prophets (1:1-3)
 - B. Better than the Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - 1. Better because of His Deity (1:4-14)
 - 2. First Warning: Danger of Drifting from the Word (2:1-4) [Neglect]
 - 3. Better because of His Humanity (2:5-18)
 - a. Made Lower than the Angels (2:5-9)
 - b. Bringing Many Sons to Glory (2:9-18)
 - 1) A Fitting Way to Save (v. 9-10)
 - 2) A _____ Way to _____ (v. 11-18)
 - a) The _____ of Solidarity (v. 11)
 - b) The _____ of Solidarity (v. 12-13)
 - i. Solidarity's _____ (v. 12 – cf. Ps. 22:22)
 - ii. Solidarity's _____ (v. 13a cf. Is. 8:17)
 - iii. Solidarity's _____ (v. 13b cf. Is. 8:18)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word “sanctify” mean? What does it mean in the context of the book of Hebrews (cf. Heb. 10:10, 14; 13:12)?
2. What does the word “solidarity” mean? In what sense do we have solidarity with Jesus? How does this relate to the real meaning of Christmas?
3. In v. 11 the word “Father” is in italics (meaning it is not in the Greek text but was added by the translators in an effort to make the sentence easier to understand). If the one “Father” refers to God, what would the point of this passage be? If the one “father” refers to Adam is the point the same or different?
4. Read Romans 5:12-21. What impact did Adam’s sin have on the human race? What impact can the second Adam’s (Christ) righteousness have on the human race? How do we appropriate that blessing?
5. Why isn’t Jesus ashamed to call us brethren? What did His becoming human (solidarity) have to do with it? What does His sanctifying work on the cross have to do with it? Are you ever ashamed to call Jesus your brother? Your Savior?
6. Read Psalm 22. This is a Messianic Psalm describing crucifixion from the perspective of the one on the cross. After Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected, He gladly proclaims God’s name to His brethren. He comes into the midst of the church and sings God’s praises! What encouragement would that bring to a church in the midst of persecution? What difference would it make in the way we worship if we realized that Jesus was in our midst as the song leader?
7. Read Isaiah chapters 7-9 (a great passage for Christmas).
 - a. How was Isaiah a picture of what Jesus would later do (“put my trust in Him”)? What did Isaiah have to trust God for at that time? Was it easy? What did Jesus have to trust God for during His time on earth? How does that bring encouragement to a church experiencing persecution?
 - b. Who are the “children” referred to in Is. 8:18? What did their names mean? What does Isaiah’s name mean? How were they “signs and wonders” in Israel? How might we (the children of God) be signs and wonders in our sinful world today?
8. Read Hebrews 1:1-4. Jesus created the universe! The Milky Way Galaxy is enormous (if you traveled at 186,000 miles per second it would take you 150,000 years to go from one end to the other). But there are other galaxies that are a million light years across. Jesus created all of them and yet He was willing to leave the glory of heaven to become a human being. He suffered the wrath of God for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead proving that He was God (Rom. 1:4) and the conqueror of sin and death! He is proud to be called our brother, He showed us how to trust in God no matter how difficult the circumstances, and He confidently proclaims that salvation is guaranteed! Have you ever called Him your Savior and Lord? Have you ever turned from your sin and put your trust in His finished work on the cross as your only way to get to Heaven? What would keep you from doing that right now? What would keep you from going and boldly telling others about Him today?