

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. – Hebrews 13:8

A review of the last few weeks gives us a wonderful look back at what we have learned so far of how great is our Lord Jesus Christ.

The first 3 lessons:

In his introduction (Heb. 1:1-3), Paul wrote that now God speaks to us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Then he went on to explain in detail how Jesus is superior to the angels (Heb. 1:4 – 2:18).

In the midst of that explanation, he gave the first of five major warnings in the Book of Hebrews. Chapter 2:1-4 tells us to not drift away.

Do not be drawn away by the spectacular things that the angels did in the past because NOW God Himself – Jesus Christ – speaks to us.

Do not neglect your walk with the Lord.

Lessons 3, 4, and 5

Chapter 2:5-18

Jesus is superior to the angels because all things are under Him.

Not yet all things (1 Corinthians 15:25-26), though “it is finished” (John 19:30).

Jesus will rule the worlds to come (v. 5) – the angels as created beings do not and will not rule.

As often in this Book, Paul quoted the Old Testament in Hebrews 2:6-8 (Psalm 8:4-6).

Jesus was made a little lower than the angels for His time on earth so that:

He could die for our sins (2:9).

He would be our Brother as born of the seed of Abraham (2:11-16).

Jesus was then raised up and “crowned with glory and honor” (v. 9).

He was made the Captain of our salvation.

(Author and finisher of our faith – Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus is superior to the angels because He is Brother to those whom He has saved. The angels are not our brothers. And as our Brother, He is our Great High Priest (3:1) and can help and comfort us because He, too, was tempted (2:18).

Chapter 3

Jesus Christ is superior to Moses. (Note that although Paul diplomatically did not tell these Jews this directly, he made the case very thoroughly in this passage.)

1. In His person (vs.1-2)

Moses was a prophet but was never High Priest; Jesus is both.

Prophet – God’s representative to the people

Priest – presents the people to God

Jesus is the Great High Priest

Jesus is the Apostle (v.1) – sent down from heaven by God to speak God’s final Word to us.

2. In His ministry (v. 3-6) – Moses was a faithful servant in the house of God (Israel), but Jesus is the faithful Son who built the house (the church). He is the Creator, who is worthy of more glory.

And we are part of that house if “*we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*” (v. 6)

3. In the rest that He gives (vs. 7-19)

Here we see the second warning in Hebrews – the danger of doubting and disbelieving the Word because of a hard heart. (vs. 8, 12)

Paul gave the example of Israel in the wilderness. They were unwilling to trust God.

How to prevent this: (1) stay in fellowship with believers; and (2) do not let sin, which deceives, into your life. (v. 13)

Not entering into God’s rest results in sacrificing (1) the peace that God gives us in this life as a believer, AND (2) the rewards God would have for us in the next. As believers, we will not lose our salvation – but we can lose our peace here and our future rewards, just as the Israelites did in the desert.

Chapter 4:1-11

So do not come short of God’s rest! In this short passage we see the word “rest” 8 times. God is trying to tell us something. The Hebrews Paul was writing to must have had a hard time resting in the Lord – like us, too.

The key to entering into God’s rest for us is faith. When we trust in Him, we cease working to make it happen by our own efforts.

The example God gave us was the Sabbath on the 7th day after working 6 days. We can see several principles in this:

1. We are to work 6 days and rest on the 7th for our health and well being – physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The day is for us to have our eyes on the Lord, worshipping Him and resting in Him. (This is a principle for us, not a law to rest on the 7th day, Saturday, as under the Old Covenant.)

2. Jesus is our Sabbath – under the New Covenant, He paid the price for our sins and we rest in Him for it all.

3. When we walk in faith in our daily lives, we rest in Him.

4. There is a future perfect rest for us in the New Heaven and Earth.

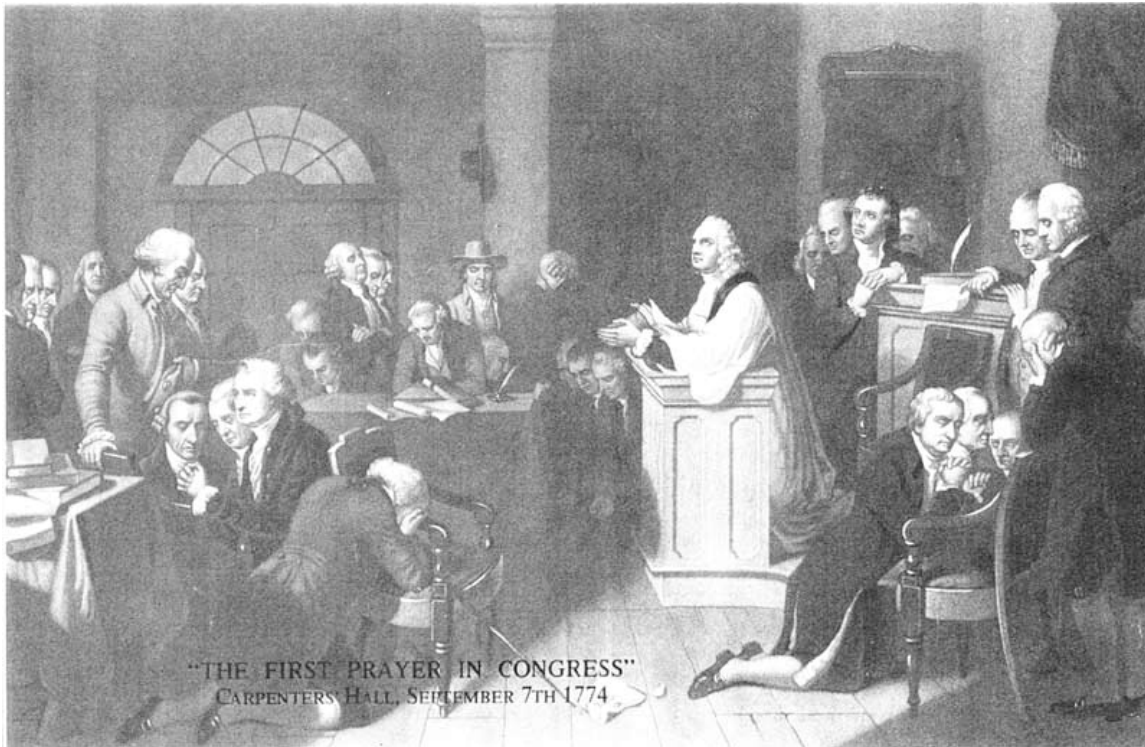
Now let’s peek ahead to what Paul wrote next – it tells us part of how we can walk in these truths:

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

– Hebrews 4:12-13





A Prayer For Election Day

A few days before the election of 1804, a columnist wrote a brief meditation, entitled "A Solemn Thought," which was published in a New York newspaper and republished in other influential periodicals.

He urged his fellow citizens to pray ... before entering the voting booth on election day. The writer then recommended that voters offer up the following supplication after casting their ballots:

Most merciful God. Accept my sincere endeavor to serve thee. Follow with thy blessing what I have done in thy name. Keep my country under thy holy protection. May those whom thou settest over it, be such as fear thee and hate covetousness [Ex. 18:21]. Pour out thy holy spirit upon all conditions of men. And hasten the time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ.

"Happy is that people, whose God is the Lord [Ps. 144:15]."

Editor's Note: This post was adapted from [Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers](#), from Oxford University Press. On "Flashback Friday," we take a look at some of IFWE's former posts that are worth revisiting. This post was previously published on Nov. 3, 2016.

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Excerpts of an article posted on <https://tifwe.org/a-prayer-for-election-day/>