



Wayne's Words

Rev. Wayne Walters

Sunday 3rd October, 2021



Riches Beyond Compare (tucked away in Hebrews!)

Hebrews 1.1-4,2.5-12

Excitingly, our lectionary readings bring us to the Letter to the Hebrews.

This unique letter of unknown authorship is addressed to Jewish believers in Jesus. They have faced persecution for their faith and are vulnerable to the temptation to revert to Judaism to gain relief from their trials. The content of the letter presents Jesus and the New Covenant that he instituted through his obedient atoning death on the cross as far superior in every way to the Old Covenant instituted through Moses, and as its fulfilment. It presumes and supplies much detailed information about the priesthood and sacrificial system as they relate to Jesus and thereby gives the reader a deeper appreciation of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection in its Jewish context and its wonderful benefits for us today.

Our passage for Sunday includes probably the most succinct and graphic description of Jesus' divine identity found anywhere in the New Testament. 'The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.'

We see here also an example of the unity of Scripture on this subject. John's gospel (1:1-3) speaks of Jesus as the Word. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... All things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made.'

Paul in Colossians (1:15f) wrote, 'He is the image of the invisible God ... For by him all things were created ... he is before all things and in him all things hold together ... God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.'

In this first two chapters, Hebrews underlines Jesus' superiority over the angels to emphasise how important it is for us to pay close attention to his words and the salvation that he has brought to us.

For since the message brought to Moses through angels is considered binding, how much more do we need to pay heed to Christ, who is God's own Son. In the past God spoke through prophets. 'In these last days', the writer says, '[God] has spoken to us by his Son.'

Our primary calling as believers in Jesus is to get to know him better, that we might become like him. I heartily recommend the reading right through of the Letter to the Hebrews as an inspiring means to this end.

God bless,

Wayne