

1) Why did God send a worldwide pandemic?

Isaiah 45:5-7

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness; **I make well-being and create calamity**; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

Luke 13:2-5

² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ **No**, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**"

2) What unique opportunities has God given us this summer to reach the lost?



Sunday, June 28, 2020
Jesus is Greater than Angels!?
 Hebrews 1:4–5a

Is this the Critical Moment?

Current Events Feel Urgent

- George Floyd, Racism, Riots (Structural Sin)
- Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia (Title 7 – LGBT)
- Covid-19

Jesus Feels Irrelevant to Our Culture

- The Religious Truth Claim of Secularism
- As Christians, It is Easy to Crave a Visible Victory

What We Have is Far More Urgent

Why Angels in 1:1-2:9?

A Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke to our fathers by the prophets**, ² but in *these last days* he has spoken to us **by his Son**, A' ⁴ having become as much superior to **angels** as *the name he has inherited* is more excellent than theirs.

I. The Testimony through the Prophets (1:5-14)

⁵ For to which of the **angels** did God ever say...

^{6b} ...“Let all God’s **angels** worship him.”

⁷ Of the **angels** he says, “He makes his **angels** winds, and his **ministers** a flame of fire.”

¹³ And to which of the **angels** has he ever said, “Sit at my right hand...”

¹⁴ Are **they** not all **ministering spirits** sent out to serve...?

II. Warning: Listen to God via the Son (2:1-4)

² For since the message declared by **angels** proved to be reliable...

Jesus is greater than angels!?

III. Jesus is Our Foundation for Eternity (2:5-9)

⁵ For it was not to **angels** that God subjected *the world to come*, of which we are speaking.

^{8b} ...Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. *At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.*

⁹ **But we see him** who for a little while was made lower than the **angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor** because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (Cf. Rev. 5:9; Phil. 2:5–11)



1 Corinthians 1:22–25

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ *but to those who are called*, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Angels represented God's visible, majestic, powerful deliverance.

Hebrews 2:2

² For since *the message declared by angels* proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution...

Acts 7:38 (Stephen; Cf. Gal. 3:19)

This is the one [Moses] who was in the congregation in the wilderness *with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai*, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

Exodus 3:2 (cf. Ex. 14:19–20)

And the *angel of the Lord* appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

What We Have is Greater than what We Want

I. Pay More Attention to Jesus

Hebrews 2:1–3a

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ²For since the message declared by **angels** proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

- A. Unbelievers (not the main point)
- B. This Letter was to Christians

II. Eyes on Jesus More than Our Circumstances

Our reconciliation, union, communion, with God and growth in Christlikeness is our most pressing concern.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Does fixing our primary attention on Jesus and the life to come mean that we should pay no attention to current events? How should our "heavenly-mindedness" effect our approach to today's responsibilities?
2. What changes on a daily level should you make to pay more attention to Jesus?
3. Read Hebrews 12:1–2. What sin is entangling your life right now that needs to be thrown off because it is hindering you from fixing your eyes on Jesus? How should this effect your pray life?
4. How should the central importance of the miracle of salvation effect our relationship with the unbelievers in our lives? (Pray for boldness and progress of the Word)
5. How should the importance of spiritual growth in Christlikeness effect how we pray for one another? How important is it for us to gather to pray together? Who will you pray with this week?
6. How does this unity about the priority of Christ help us to be charitable with those whom we disagree with about our cultural circumstances (especially with our brothers in Christ)?