

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Does it excite you to remember that Jesus is the creator? Reflect on the enormous wisdom & power involved in creating time & space with a word!
2. This some power & wisdom are on display in the upholding, "carrying" of all things by the power of his word. How does this encourage you in your life this week?
3. How does this increase your understanding of the, "Majesty on high?" Can any of our plans and dreams for this life compare with what Jesus is preparing us for?
4. How do we strive to enter God's rest? In what ways do you find yourself not entering this rest? What can you do to strengthen you faith? (Hint: you don't look at yourself)
5. In what ways have you seen God carry you?
6. As creator & sustainer of all things we can see the power of Jesus. How do we know he is good?

RBC Lord's Day Sermon



Sunday, June 21, 2020

Solid Ground

Hebrews 1:1-4

Impossible Hyperbole

Hyperbole: extravagant exaggeration (such as "mile-high ice-cream cones")

It is impossible to overstate Jesus

The Structure of Hebrews 1:1-4

- 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,
- B whom he appointed *the heir of all things*,
- C through whom also he created the world (ages).
- D³ **He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature**,
- C' and **he upholds (carries) the universe by the word of his power**.
- B' **After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**,
- A'⁴ having become as much superior to angels as *the name he has inherited* is more excellent than theirs.

(Last Week) Son of God: Messiah (Heir & King)

Everything we long for is found exclusively in Jesus.

Son of God: Divine Nature & Work

Rest in the divine power & goodness of Jesus to grant us real life.

I. What are We Taught About Jesus?

A. Jesus' Divine Identity (D)

³ **He is the radiance of the glory of God (Sun & Moon) and the exact imprint of his nature**,

Nature: the essential or basic nature of an entity—'substance, nature, essence, real being.'¹

(Parallel Ideas in John's Gospel)

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 584). New York: United Bible Societies.

John 1:1–4

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and *the life was the light of men*.

John 14:8–10a

⁸ **Philip** said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “*Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?...

Colossians 1:19 (And Paul)

¹⁹ For *in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell...*

B. Jesus' Divine Work (C, C')

^{2b} through whom also he created *the world* (ages).

^{3b} and he upholds (carries) the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:15–17

¹⁵ [The Son] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For *by him all things were created*, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and *in him all things hold together*.

“Carrying” is More than “Holding Together”

C. Jesus' Priestly Work (B')

^{3c} After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

(Cf. **Day of Atonement** – Lev. 16:30; Heb. 9:13–14)

II. Why Does the Author Review the Divine Person & work of Jesus?

A. For Endurance

Hebrews 10:35–36

³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For *you have need of endurance*, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

B. For Renewed Joy

Hebrews 9:28

...Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but *to save those who are eagerly waiting for him*.

Can You Glimpse the Power & Joy? (Vision for Endurance)

Rest in the divine power & goodness of Jesus
to grant us real life.

I. See: We are Granted to be Partakers of the Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:3–4

³ *His divine power* has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become *partakers of the divine nature*, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

II. See: Growth in Godliness is Partaking in the Divine Nature

Hebrews 12:1–2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

1. Sin = Slavery & Death

2. Holiness = Freedom & Life

III. See: Striving for Rest in God (Obedience as *Faith not Works*)

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore *strive to enter that rest*, so that no one may fall by the same sort of *disobedience*.

Illustration: Boston Bruins Club – “I’m with him.”

1. Simple obedience

2. God has the big picture plan...

Jesus is God!

(Do You See the Power & Joy in This?)