

**Monday****Hebrews 1:13
Psalm 110**

As we saw last week, each of the quotations in chapter 1 are used to show the superiority of Jesus and His message in relation to the message communicated through angels. With the quotation of Psalm 110:1, the author is making the statement, "Look at how much greater Jesus is than the angels! God never told an angel to sit enthroned at His right hand. Don't go back to the Old Covenant and law when Someone so much greater has brought you a greater message and revelation of God! Be encouraged Jesus is on the throne and will rule and reign forever!" Through the repetition we should see how much the writer is stressing this point. How many different messages do you hear each day? Through the internet, radio, TV, your conversations, and conversations around you? Yet, NONE of them are as great as the message of Jesus. How can you focus on the Good News that Jesus has brought us throughout your day so that its message dominates your thoughts?

Tuesday**Hebrews 1:14
Psalm 103**

Jesus is enthroned at the right hand of God. Angels are servants of God who carry out His plans. This comparison once again shows the greatness of Jesus in comparison to the angels. But what about the ministry of angels? Here is a section from John Stott's commentary on Hebrews 1:13-14. "Is it not possible that this letter's assurance about the ministry of angels is intended as an encouragement to all believers, especially those in danger or serious adversity? First-century believers under the sinister threat of renewed persecution found comfort in the assurance that God's unseen messengers would help them in trouble. In our own century, Marie Monsen, a Norwegian missionary serving in North China, testified to the intervention of angels at times when Christians were in danger. On one occasion, when looting soldiers surrounded her mission compound, those who had taken refuge within its flimsy walls were astonished to find that they were left in peace. A few days later the marauders explained that they were ready to enter when they noticed tall soldiers with shining faces on a high roof in the compound. Marie Monsen said, 'The heathen saw them, it was a testimony to them, but they were invisible to us. It came powerfully to me and showed me how little we reckon with 'The Lord, the God of Hosts', who sends forth his angels, mighty in strength 'to do the service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation.'" Take time to thank God for the way His grace intersects our lives in ways that are both seen and unseen!

**Wednesday****Hebrews 2:1-4
James 1**

As we enter into chapter 2, the author brings the first section of the letter to a point of application. The “therefore” in Hebrews 2:1 directs us back to what we’ve just read. The writer is saying, “In light of what I’ve just stated about Jesus’ message being so much greater than the message delivered to man by angels, we ought to hold tightly to it! If you do not hold tightly to His message you will drift away like a boat drifting aimlessly in the ocean.” The next couple of verses are a warning that is given as an encouragement to hold on to the Gospel and faith in Jesus. The author wants the readers of this letter to see two things: 1. Disobedience to the message sent through angels was justly punishable. How much more will disobedience to the message sent through God’s Son be punishable if it’s ignored. 2. According to the law revealed through angels, we are all guilty of disobedience to God’s Word. If we ignore the great salvation that has been revealed in Jesus, we have no other means of escaping God’s judgment. The end of verse 3 and verse 4 are to encourage the readers of the reliability of this message. The author states first that many heard the message through Jesus’ preaching and passed it along to others including the one writing this letter. It was also confirmed by God Himself through signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts given to Jesus’ followers through the Holy Spirit. In light of “so great a salvation,” how should we respond to God today? Ask the Holy Spirit to constantly bring to mind the Good News that Jesus has brought to us so that you “do not drift away” from Him.

Thursday**Hebrews 2:5-9
Philippians 2:1-18**

When we look at verses 5-9, we see an amazing glimpse of God’s love for us. We see this in 2 ways: 1. We see what humanity was created to be. (We will look at this more tomorrow). 2. We see what Jesus was willing to do in order to bring about “so great a salvation” that we have through Him. Verse 9 tells us that Jesus was made “a little lower than the angels for a little while.” This means that in order to save us, Jesus gave up His rights as God and entered into the world just as we are. In doing this, He experienced our frustrations, sufferings, and fears. Jesus knows the frustration and suffering that comes from living in a world that is not as it was intended to be. He also knows what it’s like to face the pressures and threats that stir fear in our hearts. He understands death and loss and the pain that comes with it. He endured the most excruciating punishment possible. It wasn’t the crucifixion that made His death unbearable; it was the wrath He took from God the Father for our sin. Spend some time thinking about what Jesus did for you. Think about what He endured to secure your salvation. Remember, even the sins you felt could never be forgiven were taken from you, along with the punishment for them at the cross. Does seeing God’s love for you motivate you to serve Him today? Worship God throughout your day because of the love He’s poured out into your life!

**Friday****Psalm 8**

Yesterday I told you that verses 5-9 show us God's love in two ways. We spent time looking at what Jesus did for us to bring about our salvation. Today we are going to see God's love for us in His intentions for humanity. It is amazing that the God who so powerfully created the heavens and earth loves us and is "mindful" of us. Psalm 8 echoes Genesis 1:26-28. We see God's intentions for us as His special creation. He has intended for us to be a people of special favor, privilege, dignity, and dominion (ability to rule). Because of sin much of this was lost, but in Jesus, we see not only what we were intended to be, but also who we are able to become in Him. Think about it this way...Through God's grace (an aspect of His favor) revealed in Jesus, we have regained the privilege of being in a relationship with God that is unique within creation. Because we are "in Christ" we have regained our dignity, value, and worth so that our identity is no longer determined by this world. Finally, through our unity with Christ and the Holy Spirit in us, we now have the ability to rule and reign over the earth in a way that is honoring and glorifying to God. Let God's love for you compel you to live a life that is honoring and glorifying to Him today! Look for an opportunity to share His love with someone who would least expect it and, in the world's eyes, may not seem to deserve it.

Saturday**Hebrews 2:10-11****Romans 8**

Here's some more great news: Jesus didn't just come to share in our humanity; He came to transform it! This transformation begins with God's loving initiative and action in His plan of salvation/reconciliation. The author calls Jesus "the pioneer" of our faith. As the pioneer of our faith, Jesus has clearly shown us the way to God now. As Hebrews 2:10 says, He will ultimately bring us to glory or where Jesus has gone before us (Heaven). When the scripture says that Jesus was made "perfect through what He suffered," it does not mean that in some way He was not already perfect in His deity or humanity. The word used for "perfect" indicates the completion of a process. In other words, Jesus finished what He came to do and completed everything necessary for us to be reconciled to God. Now it is just a matter of us trusting in what Jesus has done for us. How does Jesus' completed work (His death, resurrection, and ascension) and the gift of the Holy Spirit work to transform our lives? What areas of your life do you sense the Holy Spirit working to bring transformation?

**Sunday****Hebrews 2:12****Psalm 22**

Verse 12 speaks to our oneness with Jesus once we've come to faith in Him. By faith, we are united with Him and united to each other. We make up His Church together. The church is not a building made of steel, wood, and other inanimate materials. The Church is made up of all people who have trusted Jesus for salvation and follow Him in His ways and teaching. Let's not forget that the congregation the author of Hebrews was writing to was going through a time of trial and persecution. With that in mind, let's look back over the week to see how all that we've read would have encouraged the first readers, and now us, to hold on to the faith and persevere despite the challenges faced. We started the week by seeing again how Jesus and His message are superior to the angels and the message they communicated in the Old Testament. The angels are still at work as "ministering spirits" while Jesus' work is finished once and for all. Next we saw the first warning given to encourage the Church to hold on to the faith even in times of distress. If we do not hold tight to the great salvation provided by Jesus, we will inevitably "drift away" from Him. It's only by taking seriously the salvation that Jesus has provided that we are able to escape the punishment our sin deserves. Finally, summing up verses 5-12, we see that we now belong to Christ since we "are of the same family." This however did not come easily. Jesus laid aside all His rights as God and entered our predicament in order to save us. He experienced our frustrations, sufferings, and fears. All of this ultimately led to His death on the cross that paid the price for our sin. It is only through the perfected work of Christ that such a great salvation could be secured. As you think back over this past week, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind some of the ways God has been faithful to you. How can God's past faithfulness give us confidence for the future? How does seeing God's faithfulness motivate you to serve Him today?