

TOWARD A GOSPEL APPLICATION

The gospel calls us to a rhythm of “repentance” and “faith.” In repentance we recognize areas in our life where we are not trusting God. By “faith” we turn to God with greater confidence in his provision for us.

1. How does this passage reveal your lack of confidence in God’s plan for your life?
2. What are some ways this passage calls you to trust God on a far deeper level?
3. What are some practical steps you can take to trust God in the coming week?

Copyright © 2017 by Paul Kemp and Christ Church in Cedar Park. All rights reserved. Feel free to make copies for use in personal and group Bible study as long as the general character of the work is not compromised in the process.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

360 DISCUSSION GUIDE



I love the way, Sally Lloyd-Jones introduces us to the story of the Bible. She writes:

GOD WROTE, “I LOVE YOU” —HE WROTE IT IN the sky, and on the earth, and under the sea. He wrote his message everywhere! Because God created everything in his world to reflect him like a mirror —to show us what he is like, to help us know him, to make our hearts sing...

And God put it into words, too, and wrote it in a book called “the Bible.”

Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn’t do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn’t mainly about you and what you should be doing. It’s about God and what he has done.

Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you’ll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren’t heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose)...

There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle —the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together, and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture.

She describes the Bible beautifully. It is not a book of rules or a collection of heroic stories. While there are many stories in the Bible, they are all telling on big story, and every story whispers his name.

The writer of Hebrews would agree. Granted, in his version of the story, the baby is all grown up. In fact, he is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” Yet he is God’s final word. The one word, in which every other word finds it’s meaning. He is the heart of God’s story.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS (vv. 1-2)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

1. The writer of Hebrews divides human history into two distinctive time periods—“the past” and “these last days.” What is the major difference between “the past” and “these last days?”
2. What does it mean for us to be living “on these last days?”
3. How would you describe God’s word for us through the prophets?
4. How would you describe God’s word for us through his Son?
5. How do the two words complement one another?
6. How does God’s word through his Son fulfill, complete or eclipse his word to us through the prophets?
7. How does the writer of Hebrews describe the “Son?”
8. How should we respond to the Son, if he is the “heir of all things?”
9. How should we respond to the Son, if he is the one “through whom [God] made the universe?”

THE SON THROUGH WHOM HE SPEAKS (v, 3a)

³ The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

1. The Old Testament speaks of the glory of God as glimpses of God’s majesty and power that so overwhelming that they threaten the very survival of the person who witnesses them. How do we

experience God’s majesty and power in the person of Christ (without being threatened by them)?

2. A king would often press a “representation of his being” into a coin or a statue to remind his subjects of his sovereign rule. We were in fact created to be “representations of God’s being” to reflect his grace and character throughout creation. How did Christ reflect the heart and character of God as “the exact representation of his being?”
3. How can we fulfill our purpose of being “representations of God’s being” to a world that needs to see a clear picture of him?
4. The phrase “sustaining all things by his powerful word” conveys the idea that Christ is intimately involved in creation, moving everything to its intended end or goal. How would you describe God’s intended goal or end for all of creation?
5. How would you describe God’s intended end or goal for us?
6. How should we live now in light of God’s intend end for all of creation and us?

THE NAME THAT IS SUPERIOR TO EVERY NAME (vv. 3b-5)

After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

1. In ancient times, one was only seated after they had finished their work. What was Christ’s work? How had he brought it to completion?
2. What is the significance of Christ’s position “at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven?”
3. How is Christ exercising his authority and power (as the one who is seated “at the right hand of majesty and power”) on our behalf?
4. In the Old Testament angels were a big deal, they were often the ones who delivered a message from God. When Hebrews was written angels may have been an even bigger deal. They were thought to be the ones who delivered the “Law” to “Moses.”
 - a. How is Jesus an even bigger deal than angels?
 - b. How is Jesus an even bigger deal than Moses?
 - c. How is Jesus an even bigger deal than the Law?