

BLESSED ASSURANCE

PRINCIPLES OF FACT, FAITH & FULFILLMENT



FACTS OF THE HOLY Hebrews 1

"We--or at least I--shall not be able to adore God on the highest occasions if we have learned no habit of doing so on the lowest. At best, our faith and reason will tell us that He is adorable, but we shall not have found Him so, not have 'tasted and seen.' Any patch of sunlight in a wood will show you something about the sun which you could never get from reading books on astronomy. These pure and spontaneous pleasures are 'patches of Godlight' in the woods of our experience." — C. S. Lewis in Letters to Malcolm

I. GOLDEN GLORY (Hebrews 1:1-3)

- A. God's glory revealed in the past (v. 1)
 - 1. Note Ecclesiastes 3:11; Isaiah 6:1-5
 - 2. Awareness of God; note Psalm 19; Romans 1:20
- B. Specifics of Jesus Christ, the Son (vs. 2, 3)

"The first words of this epistle plunge to the heart of the subject. Two truths are revealed: the first, God; and the second, that God has revealed Himself." —G. Campbell Morgan



II. SUPERIOR SON (1:4-6)

- A. Higher than the angels (vs. 4, 5)
- B. Worthy worship by the angels (v. 6)

"Open, ye heavens, your living doors; let in The great Creator from his work return'd Magnificent, his six days' work, a world!" —John Milton (1608-1674)

III. REGAL RIGHTEOUSNESS (1:7-9)

- A. Old Testament ministry of angels (v. 7)
- B. Eternal ministry of Christ (vs. 8, 9)

"Now God comes to thee, not as in the dawning of the day, not as in the bud of the spring, but as the sun at noon to illustrate all shadows, as the sheaves in harvest, to fill all penuries, all occasions invite his mercies, and all times are his seasons." —John Donne

IV. DEITY DECLARED (1:10-14)

- A. Christ, the Creator (v. 10)
- B. Christ, time and eternity (vs. 11, 12)
- C. Christ and eternal glory (vs. 13, 14)

"A house testifies that there was a builder, a dress that there was a weaver; a door that there was a carpenter; so our world by its existence proclaims its Creator, God." —Rabbi Akiba Ben Joseph (C. 40-135)

FOR CONSIDERATION...

1. The Christian experience has sometimes been described as a triad of fact, faith, and feeling. What are the possible consequences of putting them in the wrong order?
2. In the Bible, consciousness of God as a higher power is a dominant theme (Psalm 19). How do we know that further steps are necessary to bring about salvation?
3. Is it possible that, in our attempts to attractively bring people on to redemption, we obscure the call to repentance?
4. How would you counsel someone who says, "I believe in a higher power—isn't that enough?"