

Consider Jesus: The Better Man Hebrews 2:5-3:1

People in every age have asked - and had to answer - "What is man?" Who are we? How did we get here? Why are we here? If we can figure out a standard, a point of reference, or discover our meaning, our significance, then perhaps we could measure how we should then live. For the author of Hebrews, to fully and completely answer any of these questions, we must "consider Jesus" (3:1; 12:2,3). When we clearly see Jesus, we see man as God intended man to be.

In Jesus, we see a PERFECT MAN (Heb 2:14,17; 5:9; 7:28). He had a real human birth, a real human body, a real human family... he was really tempted (2:18) and really suffered (2:10,18). He, by faith, derived everything He needed to live in the real world from His Father in heaven (2:13). He lived on earth in a personal and relational and eternal oneness with His Father (Jo 10:30). And He did so perfectly - as God intended man to be and do!

In Jesus, we see a POWERFUL MAN (Heb 2:14-15). God intended man to be a governing and authoritative creature (Gen 1:26-28). Jesus derived His truth and His authority from God's "say so". We do not yet "see" all things "subject" to (under the authority of) man. Mostly we see man subject to his environment - disease, disaster, decay, death. But, when we see Jesus, we see Him in authority over all these, victorious over everything against man - triumphing even over the devil and death (2:14,15). And He did so triumphantly, as God intended man to be and do.

In Jesus, we see a PRIESTLY MAN (Heb 2:17; 3:1). God intended man to be holy, sanctified, compatible with the character of God in every way (2:11). As the sinless man, Jesus could sacrificially offer Himself fully and perfectly to reconcile and "at-one" all men to God. He shared His holy life in common with us to make a full and perfect way into God's holy family (2:11). In Jesus, "You shall be holy" becomes a promise received - Sanctifier and sanctified living as one. And He did so completely - as God intended man to be and do.

In Jesus, we see a PIONEER MAN (Heb 2:10). As the Perfect Man, He restores us to God's design. As the Powerful Man, He rescues us from our adversaries. As the Priestly Man, He redeems us from separation. As the Pioneer Man, He rectifies us... puts us fully and perfectly back on course, recreating us so we may live life as God intended. There is no "trying hard" to it, no imitation about it, no self effort required to blaze our own trail to God. As the Author, the Pioneer of our salvation (2:10), He is the only One able to pass on the perfections, the power, the holiness of God to man. As we consider Him to be the very Life of our lives (Col 3:4), we will be fully man... living as God intended man to be and do!

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Greetings

We are still thanking God for an enjoyable and enlightening retreat here in Florida in February. It was so good to see so many of you from North Carolina to New Mexico, from Texas to Florida, and many places in between. Our emphasis on Truth over tradition - as it relates to the New Covenant, salvation, the church, and living Christianly - is quite appropriate for (even) the religious world in which truth is relative and mixtures of truth and error are acceptable.

Due to a cancellation or two, we've got a couple of open dates left in 2018 for conferences, meetings, or retreats. If you are interested contact me soon. There are no set fees or costs for any of our services. You invite, we come, God provides the supply. It's been that way for almost 30 years now and that's how we'll do it until God leads otherwise.

Speaking of which, we cannot thank you enough for your encouraging words and generous gifts of support. Some of you are regular, faithful givers to OIC (and have been since day one!). Some of you give as you are spontaneously prompted by God from time to time. We are grateful to God for ALL of you joining us in this ministry of enlarging the awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Your prayers, personal exhortations, friendship mean more to us every day. Let us know how we can join with you - in prayer, coming alongside you with encouragement, meeting with you in your town - so we may glorify God together!

CALENDAR

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10 Alachua Study
24 Ocala Study
30 Baptist College of Florida, Orlando ext.


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4-6 Waymart, PA (607-239-5006)

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