

- Church Web Site

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- We learned last Sunday the creator of the heavens and the earth **does not communicate with man** through gods, which have been created by the hands of men.

(**Isaiah 44**)

- We also learned that the author of the **Old Testament** is also the author of the **New**.

- It is very important to notice **that God's revelation,** which has been given to us is complete.
- **He has “granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness”**
(2 Peter 1:3)
 - **“the faith once for all delivered unto the saints”**
(Jude 3)

- **The exalted status**
of Jesus Christ
is seen in His
being appointed
“**heir of all things**”.

- **John 16:15**
Everything
that the Father has
is mine;
(NET)

- When you read the **Old Testament** you are reading the Word of God.
- The voice of God is heard through **various circumstances.**
- Open the book of **Genesis** and read the simple, majestic story of creation and the flood.

- Followed by the stories of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob;
- The thundering of the Law,
- The homespun wisdom of the Proverbs,
- The marvelous mysteries of the prophetic writings, as Ezekiel and Daniel.
 - All of it is of God, but all of it is incomplete.

- But when you open the pages of the **New Testament** you find that all the Old merges **into one voice**, the voice of the Son.
- Therefore, God's word to man **has been fully uttered** in the Son.
- There is **nothing** more to be said.
 - Jesus Christ is **God's final word to man.**

- The OT revelation was piece-meal.
- Each OT writer had an important, but partial, message.
- God revealed Himself:
 - To Moses in a burning bush,
 - To Elijah in a still, small voice,
 - To Ezekiel in a vision,
 - To Hosea through a bad marriage,
 - To Jonah through a fish

• **God has spoken!**

• This is the great message
of Hebrews.

• So take heed
how you respond
to His Word.

• Is the way
we respond
to the Son of God.

- Do you remember
the first time
you saw light
shined through
a prism.
- How amazed you were
at all the
brilliant colors.

- God spoke in a spectrum in the Old Testament;
- Jesus is a prism that collects all those bands of light and focuses them into one pure beam.

- The book of Hebrews is the Father telling us what the Son is all about.
- The Old Testament was God speaking to the fathers who were our Jewish ancestors.
 - The ASV uses the term “portions”.

- **“Portions”**
is another word for the
39 books
of the Old Testament.
- Those books were revealed through
visions and **dreams**.
 - And sometimes
God even
wrote it Himself.
- Using His divine finger to write the
Ten Commandments.
(Exodus 31:18)

- The theme of the **39 books** Old Testament is none other than the coming Messiah.
- **He is the seed of the woman** **in Genesis 3**, which is the beginning of the Old Testament,
- **He is the sun of righteousness** **in Malachi 4:2.**
 - Which is the **end** of the Old Testament.
- And He is the **theme** of everything in between.
 - All through the Old Testament, **Christ is the theme.**

- So, the pictures of Christ **are throughout the**
Old Testament.
- It is a **promising** story.
 - But just **short** of being complete.
- It **cannot** be complete without the New Testament.

- **Hebrews 1:1**

*After God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through **the prophets,***

- **1:2** in these last days he has spoken to us **in a son,**
- **Verse 2** takes us from the **preparation** for Christ
- To the **presentation** of Christ.

- And that is to say **His Son** **is the complete** revelation of God,
- The New Testament focuses on the fact **that God came in** **the form of Jesus Christ.**
 - That is the **definitive theme** of the New Testament.

- **The four gospels** record the life and work of Jesus.
- The **book of Acts** records the impact of His life and work,
- The **epistles** describe the impact of His work.
- And the book of **Revelation** describes His second coming, when His work is consummated.

- In the Old Testament God displayed Himself in fragments.

- But in the New Testament Jesus Christ embodies all the wisdom of God.

- In Jesus Christ is displayed
*all the fullness of
the Godhead bodily.*
(**Colossians 2:9**)
- If you want to see God fully,
look at Christ.
 - Jesus said,
“**If you’ve seen Me,
You’ve seen the Father.**”
(**John 14:9-10**)

- The writer of Hebrews is writing to these Jewish people to affirm to them that **Jesus is Jehovah.**

- That Jesus is **Almighty God.**

- To prove that he informs them that Jesus is none other than the **Creator God of the universe.**

(Hebrews 1:2)

- To understand the Christian faith,
- And to understand Judaism
is to understand
that God came into the world
in human form as Jesus Christ.
- That He is fully man and fully God.

- And that's **the message of** this opening part of Hebrews.
- And that is the **heart** and **soul** of the Christian faith, **that Jesus is God.**

- No one can be a **Christian** and deny that.
 - No one can have their sins **forgiven** and deny that.
 - To believe that is essential to being on the road **to being saved.**

- God is a Spirit,
and God is invisible.
- How does God then
put Himself on display?
- How does God
manifest His presence?
- In the Old Testament,
He chose to do it through
light.

- **2 Corinthians 4:4**

**“We see the light
of the glory of Christ,
who is the
image of God.”**

- When you look at Christ,
what you're seeing is
the shining forth of God.

- Now, what is the shining forth of God?

- What is God's glory?

- In the Old Testament, God's glory was simply the representation of His attributes.

- Hebrews 1:3

*For he is the radiance
of the Glory of God
and the very expression
of his Being*
(20cNT)

- That word “radiance”
is the word “brightness.”
 - It simply means
to send forth light.
- Jesus is the shining forth
of God’s glory.

- John 1:14 says,
“We beheld His glory.”
- And what did we behold?
 - “*The glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”
 - What we see, when we look at Jesus, is the same shining forth that is true of God.

- When God appeared to Israel to lead them, He led them by a bright cloud during the day,
 - And a pillar of fire at night.

- In Exodus 33-34

Moses wanted proof that God would be with him in leading the rebellious Israelites.

- So God placed Moses in the cleft of the rock.

- In Exodus 33-34

God told Moses

“No man can see me and live.”

- “You shall see my back,
but you cannot see my face”

- When Moses
descended Mt. Sinai
his face shone so bright
Aaron and the people
were afraid of him.

- **Exodus 33:19**

And he said,

***I will make
all my goodness
pass before you...***

- You can't see
“**goodness**”.
- It is a **virtue**.
- So how do you
see a virtue?

- God manifested it in the form of light.
- So, when Paul says Jesus is the radiance of God's glory,
 - It simply means He possesses the same attributes of God.
- Nothing less than that.
- He is all that God is.

- Just as the radiance of the sun is not the sun,
- Just as the warmth of the sun is not the sun,
- The light of the sun is not the sun,
but it comes from the sun,
- So the attributes of God,
- Jesus doesn't radiate God,
He is God.

- Now, for a short lesson in Greek.
- Greek is a far richer language than English.
 - Where English has one word to express an idea,
 - Greek has often two or three or more.
 - Which are synonyms,
 - But they never mean entirely the same thing;
 - They always have some special meaning.

- Colossians 2:9

For in him dwells
all the fullness
of the Godhead bodily.

- Note two words:

- “All”

- “bodily”

- **“Bodily”**
express the fact
that the indwelling
is not mystical
but in his whole human nature.

- **“The fulness of Deity”**
can never be divided.

- Wherever it dwells,
“all”
of it dwells.

- **Division**
is unthinkable.

- Paul here asserts that **"all of the Godhead,"** not just certain aspects, dwells in Christ and in bodily form

- Note the word

"all"

{G_3956}

"The whole."

{Strong's Hebrew & Greek definitions.}

- **"the word became flesh"**
(**John 1:14**)

- Here for the first time
the **Logos**
or
Word
is identified as
Jesus of Nazareth
 - The two are
one and the same.
(John 1:1)

- There was a belief among some that the body of Jesus was mere semblance **without any true reality.**
- A belief that Jesus only seemed to be human, and that his human form **was an illusion.**

- Philippians 2:7
emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being made in
the likeness of men;
- His humanity was
as real as His diety.
 - No mere
phantom humanity
as the Docetic Gnostics held.

- Philippians 2:6
“Being in the form of God”.

- The word
“being”
{**G5225**}
is from the Greek verb
which describes that
which a man is
in his very essence
and which cannot be changed.

- So Paul is saying
that Jesus was
essentially and unalterably
God.

- Philippians 2:6

- *“being in the form of God”*

There are two Greek words for

“form”,

morphe

(G3444)

schema

(G4976).

- They must both be translated

“form”,

because there is

no other English equivalent,

but they do not mean the same thing.

- Philippians 2:6
“being in the form of God”

- Morphe

(G3444)

is the essential form
which never alters;

- Schema

(G4976)

is the outward form
which changes from time to time.

- For instance,

morphe

(G3444)

of any human being

is humanity

and this never changes;

- But his

schema

(G4976)

is continually changing.

- A baby,
and
an old man
always have the
morphe
(G3444)
of humanity
which never changes,
 - But the outward
schema
(G4976)
changes all the time.
- So when you look in the mirror
you say
”What happened to me?”

- The word Paul uses for Jesus

”being in the form of God”

is morphe

(G3444);

- That is to say,
his unchangeable being
is divine.

- However his outward schema (G4976) did alter, but he remained in essence divine.

- Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

• In conclusion,
what does all that add up to?

• Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness
of *his* glory,

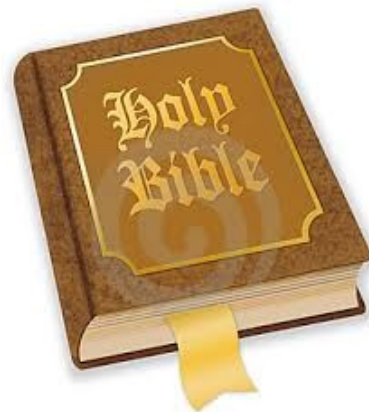
- and the express image of his person,
- and upholding all things
by the word of his power,
- when he had by himself
purged our sins,
- sat down on the right hand
of the Majesty on high;

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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