

## March 2, 2019 FBC Defenders Conference Who Says So? Message Two

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **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;

We return once more this afternoon to this great text. God has spoken in times past through His prophets. From Moses to Samuel to David to Jeremiah to Isaiah to Ezekiel to Malachi to John the Baptist – God communicated His truth to men who faithfully delivered His message. When they were led by the Holy Spirit to do so, they wrote these revelations down.

In his last message to us before he died, Simon Peter wrote concerning the Scriptures:

**2 Peter 1:20** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Since the Bible stands at such a crucial point as the source of God's message to us as His people and the **ultimate authority in all matters of life and living**; it makes sense then that the false prophets of secularism would be attacking the scriptures with everything they can use.

So, after affirming the authority of scripture Simon Peter moves quickly to warn us about this very thing:

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3** By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

**This passage brings these two groups into sharp contrast with one another.** On the one hand, holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. On the other hand, there are the false teachers – in Greek that is pseudo – the pseudo prophets. They work secretly. They work with the goal of exploiting people.

They are moved by covetousness – they want what others have. They use “deceptive” words...in Greek that is the word “plastos.” The words of the pseudo prophets are plastic, pliable. This means they use common words but **define them in their own way.**

We stand today as the beneficiaries of unprecedented access to Biblical truth. Yet for all this, we see our faith declining into apathy, indifference, and outright rejection. What I mean by that is that we aren't **doing very well at reaching the lost world; and we aren't doing very well at keeping the ones we have raised up** under the truth.

Don't get me wrong – **I'm not pessimistic at all.** I see God at work in the lives of His children to create a hunger for His word, exactly as He promised here:

**Amos 8:11** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: **12** And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro **to seek the word of the LORD,** and shall not find it.

***God didn't say there would be a shortage of preachers, churches, or worship centers.*** He **DID** say that He would create a hunger in the hearts of His people to hear the word of the Lord – yet they would crisscross their land looking for it and not be able to find it.

Access to the scriptures is at an all-time high. Preachers who believe in the authority of scripture and preach it in the **power of the Spirit of God are perhaps at an all-time low.** Combine that with a mostly biblically illiterate generation who don't know the difference between preaching in the power of God or the plastic preachers Simon Peter warned about, and the danger should be self-evident.

I mentioned in the first session that there are millions of voices calling for us to abandon the scriptures and even abandon our belief in the one true God. But remember today that ***GOD HAS NOT BEEN AND NEVER SHALL BE SHOUTED DOWN.*** He is STILL SPEAKING, and this text very powerfully identifies the message God is focused on delivering to this world, though His spokesman has changed and is UNIMAGINABLY IMPROVED....for God is speaking THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

This passage identifies several key truths about **Jesus as both THE SOURCE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF GOD'S REVELATION TO US.** **God's last word to humanity is JESUS.** Through the prophets and the marvelous pictures and types that fill the Old Testament scriptures, the shadow of Jesus APPEARED LONG BEFORE HE DID. But once the PERSON CAME the TYPES AND SHADOWS WERE FOREVER REPLACED.

We rejoice in the telling of the shadows – but never to the EXCLUSION OF THE PERSON. That is why the book of Hebrews was written, because the JEWISH CHRISTIANS WERE TRYING TO GO BACK TO THE SHADOWS AND ABANDON THE PERSON OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

But JESUS is God's final word to us – apart from Him there is nothing good or godly. It is impossible to have access to God apart from Jesus. It is impossible to know God except to know Him. You don't leave Jesus for SOMETHING ELSE but for NOTHING ELSE. WE don't drop our eyes and shuffle our feet to say all I have is Jesus because JESUS IS ALL WE NEED:

**Colossians 2:2** That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; **3** In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

God's revelation of Jesus is summarized by the writer of Hebrews under two incredible headings – WHO HE IS and WHAT HE DOES:

## **First, WHO JESUS IS**

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**Our Great Spokesman is the SON AND HEIR.** Jesus' position is absolutely unique, which is why the New Testament refers to Him as the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. This translates the Greek word "monogenus" which means that Jesus is the ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND. We don't understand the mystery of this, and since we don't understand it we don't do very well at explaining it.

Instead, we just express what the scripture reveals:

**1 Timothy 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

And this:

**Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus is declared to be the heir of ALL THINGS. That means God Himself has established legal ownership through the eternal court of heaven and transferred all things to Him. That means in a practical sense that He owns the ground you stand on and the feet you stand on it with. It means He owns the air you breath and the lungs you breath it with. THE WEALTH OF ALL THE WORLD IS HIS. There's more good news:

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

### **Then our Great Spokesman is GOD'S GLORY AND IMAGE**

**Hebrews 1:3a** "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...."

One of the great truths of the Biblical revelation concerns the brightness of the glory of God. The consummate passage is, of course, Moses communing with God as recorded in Exodus 33. Moses put up his tent far away from the camp, and the Bible says that God descended to visit with Moses through the pillar of cloud at this tent, called, "the tent of meeting."

With all that was going on, we can understand why Moses said, "Lord show me your glory." But God responded, "no man can see my face and live." Moses was called to return to Mt. Sinai where he spent 40 days with God. God promised to hide Moses in the cleft of a rock so that after His glory passed, Moses could see His back.

When he came down from the mountain, Moses' face was shining and he put on a veil. The writer of Hebrews said he kept the veil on so that the people didn't see that the glory was fading away. This was intended to be a sign to the people that the GLORY OF THE OLD COVENANT WAS A FADING GLORY....but it was still GLORIOUS.

Jesus came and was the GLORY OF GOD but behind the veil of His human flesh. He was FULLY MAN and FULLY GOD. There's more, because Jesus is also the IMAGE OF

GOD. God's first command to His people was that they should make no graven image of God. They worshipped the invisible God, and any attempt on man's part to make an image of Him would be FATALLY FLAWED and UNACCEPTABLE.

GOD ALREADY HAD AN IMAGE, AND HIS IMAGE IS JESUS CHRIST. Jesus makes the invisible God visible – so that mankind can have access to Him and His glory through Jesus. The word "image" refers to a die impress. If you have ever taken something with a pattern on it and pushed it into something else to make an impression, then you know what this passage is saying.

**The great preacher Tony Evans is fond of saying that "Jesus came and put God on a shelf that we could reach."**

The glory of God that was unapproachable, the image of God that was unshapable and indefinable was FULLY MANIFESTED IN JESUS CHRIST. **Fully man/fully God.**

So God's great Spokesman, Jesus, is revealing to us the TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF and WHO HE IS. He is the IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD. (Colossians 1:15) He is the BRIGHTNESS OF HIS GLORY. But not only WHO JESUS IS...

## **THEN, we see WHAT JESUS DOES**

**Hebrews 1:2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds;**

**The very first thing we are introduced to about Jesus' work is that HE IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.** John's account of creation is stated simply:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

There isn't a lot in this passage that needs interpretation or discussion because it is so simple and so direct. Jesus made everything. Nothing made itself. After all these years, science still says that the universe created itself and then ultimately created everything else.

This passage also tells us that Jesus is the source of life, and the fact that Jesus has life is the primary ingredient of the illumination of mankind. As the Old Testament puts it, **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge." (Proverbs 1:7)**

Modern science still has no answer for the riddle of life. For all the talk about evolution, it has no practical explanation for how the inanimate universe somehow animated itself

to make itself alive. Just this week, Fox News carried a front page article titled, "NASA was able to recreate the "origins of life" and the results are shocking..."

Well, what NASA was able to do was to bring together some of the minerals that surround a "vent" in the ocean floor so that the heated 'soup' of minerals combined to form some simple amino acids under carefully controlled conditions.

The jump in complexity required to move amino acids into even the simplest of single-celled organisms is impossible to convey. I would compare it to crumpling up a piece of aluminum foil and throwing it into the driveway and saying, "I've got a new car!" A ball of aluminum could become a component of an automobile, but it is a long, long way from becoming one – and it doesn't take a biological engineer to understand that for base components to become an automobile SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

But they trumpet these things every time they do it because THEY ARE THAT DESPERATE TO PLUG THIS HUGE, GAPING HOLE IN THEIR THEORIES – **SCIENCE HAS NO CREDIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THE ORIGIN OF LIFE**. Period. John 1:3 does, "In Him was life..."

The Noble Laureate George Wald wrote an article for the Scientific American (Vol. 190, August 1954, p. 46) called "The Origin of Life." He said, "The reasonable view was to believe in spontaneous generation; the only alternative, to believe in a single, primary act of supernatural creation. There is no third position." He went on to say, "One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are – as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation."

**Then, Jesus is not only the CREATOR OF ALL THINGS but HE IS THE SUSTAINER OF ALL THINGS.**

**Hebrews 1:3b** "...and upholding all things by the word of His power,"

We add in this incredible statement from Colossians:

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.  
**16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

The Bible simply states that Jesus is the Creator of all things, and that the WORD OF HIS POWER is what holds it all together. It is interesting that scripture addresses not only the great mystery to modern science – the origin of life – but also the great mystery of modern astrophysics, how the universe is held together.

Science has understood since the crucial work of Edwin Hubble at Cal Tech in 1929 that the universe is expanding. It was that understanding that led them to understand the universe is expanding. The existence of stars in clusters and galaxies suggested that they exerted gravitational influence on one another to continue on their established clusters. The galaxies aren't flying apart.

After Hubble's discovery of the expanding universe, they soon realized there was a serious problem. There isn't enough mass, the stars and all visible matter, aren't large enough to be able to create enough gravity to hold them together. So, the only solution for science was to declare that there is something there that adds mass and therefore gravity, they call it dark matter because they can't see it or measure it.

Then they made another startling discovery in the 1990's. Through the work of the Hubble telescope, they began to discover that the expanding universe was actually accelerating. That's a problem, because an object that is set in motion will be forced to slow down by the power of gravity. Throw a baseball. It goes the fastest it will ever go the instant it is released from the pitchers hand, and the only way it can speed back up is if something adds more energy to it – like a bat swung by a batter.

Since the early 1900's, then, science KNEW that the universe was expanding, but it was also slowing down because it has to be. Only it isn't. The only explanation they could come up with was the existence of DARK ENERGY...you guessed it...that was overcoming the law of gravity and causing the universe to speed up. By a whole, whole lot.

Without blinking, science today declares that 70% of the energy of the entire universe is dark energy, the other 25% comes from the gravity created by dark matter, and only a measly 5% comes from **what they amazingly call "ordinary" matter**. This dark energy is not like any energy, and this matter is not like any matter. They can't see it. They can't find it though **it is 95%, according to their ideas, of ALL THE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE.**

<https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/what-is-dark-energy>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/dark-matter>

I don't bring this to your attention this afternoon to tell you that the idea of Dark Matter and Dark Energy means that science has discovered God...just the opposite in fact. I bring this up for you to think about the next time some professor or some arrogant entertainer starts mocking your God and mocking your Bible and calling you a fool for believing in what they like to call, "the tooth fairy God your parents gave you."

I want you to remember that this same professor believes in something so powerful that it is **95% of all the energy of the entire universe**. This professor believes in

something that by his own cherished laws of thermodynamics **CANNOT EXIST**, but it **HAS TO EXIST** because as they study the universe they find it is operating in a way they CANNOT EXPLAIN without the existence of this dark matter and dark energy they can't define, see, explain, measure, OR EVEN FIND.

We've been to the moon and back, you would think they would have picked up a bucket or two by now.

I want you to remember that the same atheists and liberals who MOCK YOUR GOD and HATE YOUR BIBLE and HATE YOUR JESUS believe that the universe created itself and then created everything else. They have NO CREDIBLE EXPLANATION for how life began, they aren't even CLOSE to having a credible explanation. They are perfectly willing to advance something they call "science" even though they KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SUGGESTING CONTRADICTS THEIR OWN SCIENTIFIC LAWS.

In short, they say IT CAN'T HAPPEN THIS WAY but it HAS TO HAVE HAPPENED THIS WAY.

BUT YOUR BIBLE TELLS YOU THE ANSWER TO BOTH GREAT MYSTERIES. Jesus is the Creator and IN HIM WAS LIFE. **Life began because HE MADE IT BEGIN.** He has LIFE WITHIN HIMSELF AND CAN THEREFORE GIVE LIFE.

YOUR BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER to the power that both HOLDS THE UNIVERSE TOGETHER and is SPEEDING IT UP IN ITS DEPARTURE...it is **JESUS AND THE WORD OF HIS POWER.**

Jesus is a REAL PERSON, the IMAGE AND GLORY OF GOD  
Jesus is THE ALL POWERFUL GOD, and He is the SOURCE and the SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE.

**Now, ALL OF THAT IS REALLY JUST INTRODUCTION TO WHAT HE SAYS NEXT.....**

## **Jesus is OUR SAVIOR**

**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 at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

Jesus is not only the brightness of His glory and the expressed image of His person: He isn't just the creator and the sustainer of all things in the universe and the heir of all things, THIS JESUS that is the GLUE OF THE GALAXIES LOVED US ENOUGH TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS.



Such a revelation is unfathomable to us. We would never imagine such a thing HAD GOD HIMSELF NOT REVEALED IT TO US. This COSMIC CHRIST, this ONE WHOSE THRONE IS IN HEAVEN and has the EARTH AS HIS FOOTSTOOL loved me and you enough to SEE US IN OUR SINS and in our REBELLION AGAINST HIM and REDEEMED US FROM OUR SINS and give us HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Notice the words, "by Himself." Omitted from many modern translations, these words present a crucial part of orthodox theology. A huge portion of those who claim to follow Christ consider Mary to be co-redeemer. But this passage reminds us of the truth that Jesus alone is our Savior.

The Old Testament presented this truth in its marvelous, picture book way in the sacrifice of the scapegoat:

**Leviticus 16:20** And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: **21** And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: **22** And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

The High Priest was required to take two baby goats – kids of the flock – one would be offered as a sacrifice and the other would become the scapegoat. Upon that trembling little goat the High Priest would lay his hands and confess over him all their transgressions and sins. The list went on and on and on and on....but would finally be finished. The rope would then be handed to a fit man who would lead the little goat into the wilderness – into a desert land uninhabited – then turn his back and leave the scapegoat to die alone.

Notice, God SPOKE AND THE UNIVERSE BECAME. Jesus UPHOLDS THE UNIVERSE WITH THE WORD OF HIS POWER. But this work of redemption was a dark and bloody business that Jesus faced absolutely alone.

There on the day when darkness covered the land; when the earthquake shook open the graves and split the rocks; when the veil in the temple was rent in two from top to bottom – THERE IN THE DARKNESS WE HEAR THE CRY OF THE SAVIOR "Tetelestai" – it is finished.

Paid in full.

You see, when we allow our God to get so small that we can fit Him in a box for Sunday morning, it's almost inevitable that we turn things around so that HE serves us instead of us serving Him.

In my consideration of this message I found scientist after scientist making the same basic statement quoted from George Wald – we either believe in the spontaneous generation of life or we believe in a single creative act. They choose the former, impossible though it might be, for the simple reason of ROMANS 1 – they DO NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

They have instead begun to formulate the idea that the UNIVERSE has a mind, that LIFE makes a way and that TIME is the miracle worker.

I don't mention all this today with the goal of turning you all into men and women who can change the minds of all the scientists of the world – you won't. The primary place I want you to be able to defend is YOUR OWN HEART AND MIND.