A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns. The crown features a band of small, clear gemstones set in a gold-colored metal. The band is adorned with several larger, ornate jeweled elements, including a large, faceted diamond and other smaller stones. The crown is placed on a dark, textured surface, and the background is dark and moody, with some light reflecting off the gemstones.

Jesus is Trustworthy as Lord and Savior

Hebrews 1:3~4

Introduction

2 Timothy 1:8-12 ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Theme: Jesus is Trustworthy as Lord and Savior

Jesus is Deity on Display (1:3a)

- The writer of Hebrews describes the supremacy of Jesus as the ultimate display of divine communication to us
 - What we receive from Jesus is communication from God
 - The ethnic Jews addressed in the letter of Hebrews need to understand the significance of what they've received through New Covenant grace provided through Jesus

"He is the radiance of the glory of God"

- What Jesus displays is the splendid glory of God
- We are given these inspired accounts of Jesus in Scripture so that we reverence and highly value our Savior

Jesus is Deity on Display (1:3a)

- Yes, Jesus is the loving Lamb of God who takes away our sin
- And Jesus is our God, and He blazes as a consuming fire
 - Hebrews 12:28-29
 - The Apostle John, who walked with Jesus during His earthly ministry and was known as the beloved disciple, describes the vision he had of Jesus while on the island of Patmos
Revelation 1:12-17
- The Apostle Paul's inspired description of Jesus is another picture of Him as the radiance of the glory of God
1 Timothy 6:15-16
- Let us honor and worship Jesus, keeping His glorious brilliance as God in mind

Jesus is Deity on Display (1:3a)

"and the exact imprint of his nature,"

- The very essence and character of God is revealed in and through Jesus
 - Jesus didn't come to make God palatable
 - Jesus came to make God known
 - John 1:18
- Jesus taught His disciples that He is the exact imprint of the nature of God
 - John 14:7-9
- Paul taught the church at Colossae the same thing
 - Colossians 1:15

Jesus is Deity on Display (1:3a)

"and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

- Jesus is the Creator God (Cf. 1:2)
- Jesus is the Sustainer God
 - He spoke creation into existence
 - His word is responsible for sustaining and directing all ("*universe*") He has created
 - His care of creation is never impeded or superseded

Parenthetical

- He is to be obeyed in attitude as well as action
- Do what is right and honor the Lord with a compliant and respectful attitude
- "*by the word of his power*" – We do well to listen to what Jesus instructs us and obey worshipfully and delightfully

Jesus accomplishes purification for His people (1:3b)

"After making purification for sins"

- Sin and selfishness are acts of defiance against God and His righteous standard
- Acts of self-righteousness, disobedience, and idolatry reveal the blackness of our hearts rooted in the disease and defilement of our flesh
- For purification to happen, the penalty of sin must be paid through a sinless sacrifice of atonement
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Trusting in Jesus Christ alone is essential
 - Acts 4:12

Jesus accomplishes purification for His people (1:3b)

"he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"

- Jesus Christ accomplished the promised redemptive mission
- Just before His death on the cross, as He poured out His lifeblood as an atoning sacrifice, Jesus said, "It is finished"
 - There were no seats or stools in the holy of holy for the priests
 - Jesus sat down on heaven's throne, confirming that His work was complete
- Following His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus sits at the Father's right hand in victory and reigning authority
 - Psalm 110:1
- Jesus sits at the right hand of God, a position of honor and supreme authority
- The cry of worship from our hearts should be, "I live and do all that I do for King Jesus, and I do so gladly!"


Jesus has unmatched superiority (1:4)

⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

- Angels were held in high regard by the Jews, who believed them to be the messengers of the Law to Moses
- Hebrews is making the point that the revelation brought by Jesus and accomplished by Jesus is supreme
- The incarnation and mission of Jesus does not belittle Him in the least
- His name, "*Son of God*," is far superior to any angelic name or title

Questions to Consider

- Why is the deity of Jesus important to understand and rely on?
- Why should we humbly listen to the instructions of Jesus and obey worshipfully and delightfully?
- What is important about Jesus sitting down after providing purification for the sins of those He came to save?
- How is the rule and reign of Jesus Christ practically being fleshed out in your life?

A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns. The crown features a band of small, clear, round gemstones set in a gold-colored metal. The band is adorned with several larger, ornate, jeweled fleur-de-lis or leaf-like motifs. The crown is placed on a dark, textured surface, and a portion of the crown's base, which is made of dried, thorny branches, is visible in the lower right. The background is dark and moody, with a faint, golden, circular arc framing the upper part of the crown.

Jesus is Trustworthy as Lord and Savior

Hebrews 1:3~4