**Preaching to Saturate a Young Generation with a High Christology**

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**Overview**

Believing students do love Jesus. But today they tend to see him as their little buddy or mascot. A “little Jesus in my pocket” does not move students to love God supremely, love others sacrificially, or make disciples globally. The answer is text-driven preaching that births in students a high Christology. Texts such as Psalm 110, Philippians 2, Colossians 2, Hebrews 1, and Revelation 4 can lift eyes to the ascended, enthroned, and reigning Son of God, King of kings and Lord of lords. For young disciples, that view changes everything.

**Where Did Teenagers Get a “Little” View of Jesus?**

Notes:

**Why Does It Matter How We See Jesus Today?**

**Who the Son really is reveals who God really is.**

If you have a little Jesus, you will have a little God.

If you have a grand and glorious Jesus, you will have a grand and glorious God.

Hebrews 1:1-3 “Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by [His] Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things and through whom He made the universe. **He is the radiance of His glory, the exact expression of His nature**, and He sustains all things by His powerful word.”

Col. 1:13-16 “(God) has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **He is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation; because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth.”

2 Cor. 4:6 “For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness"—He has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of **God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ**.”

Notes:

**Who Is Drawing Attention to the Son?**

Phil 2:9-11 “Therefore **God has highly exalted him** and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Notes:

**Preaching Hebrews One**

Every helpful insight below is from Dr. David Allen’s commentary on Hebrews.

Every insight below that is in error is from Richard Ross.

**Hebrews 1**

**1. “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,”**

Each prophet provided a part of the revelation of who God is.

**2. “but in these last days . . .”**

 In the days that Hebrews was written—on this side of the crucifixion, resurrection, and exaltation.

**“ . . . he has spoken to us by his Son,”**

Now we have a singular and a final revelation—in the Son

How people see Jesus is how they see God

Little Jesus—little God

Glorious Jesus—glorious God

**“. . . whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”**

The entire space-matter-time continuum

**3. “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,”**

GREEK:

Either the Son perfectly reflects the glory of God, similar to the moon

Or He IS the radiance of God, similar to the sun

Picture Stephen being stoned.

Acts 7:55 “Stephen saw the glory of God, namely Jesus, standing at the right hand of God.”

**“. . . and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”**

He could think the thought, and the universe would cease to exist.

**“After making purification for sins,”**

Christ is High Priest performing the sacrifice. Later in Hebrews, we learn that He IS the sacrifice.

**“. . . he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”**

40 days after the resurrection

Ascended from Mt. of Olives

Given the right hand throne, the place of honor, authority, and power

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

The writer of Hebrews:

Had to convince Monotheistic Jewish Christians that Jesus IS God.

Verses 5—14 quote seven Old Testament passages.

From Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, and Psalms

**5. “For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’"?**

**6. “And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God's angels worship him.’"**

**7. “Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.’"**

The following is remarkable! (Emphasis added)

**8. “But of the Son he says, ‘*Your throne, O God*, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the *scepter of your kingdom*.’”**

**9. ‘You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’**

**10. ‘*You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth* in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;’**

**11. ‘they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,’**

**12. ’like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.’**

**13. “And to which of the angels has he ever said, ‘*Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’"*?**

Ps. 110 is the most quoted Old Testament passage in Hebrews and in the New Testament.

 Why?

 How you see Jesus is how you will see God.

**Other Key Passages Related to a High Christology**

**Who Really Is Jesus *Today*?**

Psalm 110

1 “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’

2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.”

Notes:

Daniel 7:13-14 “. . . I saw One like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before Him.

He was given authority to rule, and glory, and a kingdom; so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.”

Notes:

**Transfiguration**

Matt 17:1 “After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. He was transformed in front of them, and His face shone like the sun. Even His clothes became as white as the light.”

Verse 5 “. . . suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him. Listen to Him! When the disciples heard it, they fell facedown and were terrified.”

Notes:

**When John Saw Jesus *after* the Ascension**

Rev. 1:12-15 “I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me. When I turned I saw seven gold lampstands, and among the lampstands was One like the Son of Man, dressed in a long robe, and with a gold sash wrapped around His chest. His head and hair were white like wool-white as snow, His eyes like a fiery flame, His feet like fine bronze fired in a furnace, and His voice like the sound of cascading waters.”

Rev. 1:17 “When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man.”

Notes:

**Christ’s Return!**

1 Thess 4:16-17 “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

Notes:

Who He will be that day is who He is today! That is the King to whom you are speaking!

**Sermon Monologue**

And when they came unto the place which is called the skull, there they crucified him.

The LORD was pleased to crush Him. Smitten of God, He laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. Christ died for sins to bring us to God.

And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb.

As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen.”

To the apostles, Jesus presented Himself alive after His suffering, appearing to them over a period of forty days. And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

He was clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like flames of fire.

God said, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. (God) seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them one from one another. Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. Behold, I am coming soon!

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”