

Exalted Redeemer!

Hebrews 1:3-4

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- The generous hospitality of the people of Gander, Newfoundland in the immediate hours following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- *“People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.”*
- **Review of Jesus’ qualifications** that sets Him apart as the ultimate speaker, the final Word from God to man
 - Hebrews 1:1-4-- *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 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; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all 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, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”*
 - **In relation to God the Father, Jesus Christ is...**
 - *“The brightness of God’s glory”*
 - *“The express image of His person.”*
 - Colossians 2:9-- *“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*
 - **Relative to Creation, Jesus Christ is...**
 - **The agent of creation**--*“through Whom He also made the worlds”*
 - John 1:3-- *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*
 - **Sustainer of creation** -- *“upholding all things by the word of His power”*
 - **“Heir of all things”**
 - Revelation 11:15b-- *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*
 - Romans 11:36-- *“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”*

Exalted Redeemer

- 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.”*

A. Jesus Christ has *“by Himself purged our sins”!*

1. Our greatest need was sin that separates us from a holy God

- Romans 3:10-18-- *“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- Romans 3:23-- *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

2. **Jesus Christ came to earth to deal with man's sin problem!**
 - a. **Jesus Christ became like us so that He could represent us to the Father and make the sacrifice for our sins.**
 - Hebrews 2:17-- *"Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."*
 - b. **Unlike earthly, sinful priests, Jesus Christ was perfect and thus did not need to make a sacrifice for Himself.**
 - Hebrews 7:27-- *Who (that is, Jesus Christ) does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself."*
 - c. **Because His sacrifice is pure, He could purify or purge us from our sins.**
 - Hebrews 9:12-14-- *"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*
3. **The "purging" of our sin was a "once-and-for-all" event, a completed work.**
 - Hebrews 9:24-26-- *"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*
4. **Jesus' death for us as our substitute is a demonstration of His great love for us!**
 - Romans 5:6-8-- *"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
5. **Jesus' sacrifice for us is what draws us to Him, and what makes us want to listen to Him.**

B. Jesus Christ *"sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High"*

1. **In the exaltation that followed Jesus' humiliation, God the Father invites Jesus to sit at His right hand.**
 - Psalm 110:1-- *"The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*
 - Ephesians 1:20-- *"which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places"*
2. **Significance of "sitting"-- the work of redemption is FINISHED!!**
 - Hebrews 10:12-- *"But this Man (That is, Jesus Christ), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God."*
3. **Significance of "sitting at the Father's right hand."?**
 - a. **Jesus Christ exercises His authority.**
 - 1 Peter 3:22-- *"has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."*

b. **Jesus Christ acts as our advocate-- defense attorney.**

- 1 John 2:1-2-- *"And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

c. **Jesus Christ as our High Priest intercedes on our behalf.**

- Romans 8:34-- *"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."*
- Hebrews 4:16-- *"boldly the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*
- Hebrews 7:25-- *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

4. **Jesus Christ not only cared for us in the past, but He cares for us in the present. He loved us then! He loves us now!**

C. **Jesus Christ was made "*better than angels.*"**

- Hebrews 1:4-- *"having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."*

1. **In His incarnation, Jesus Christ was made "*a little lower than the angels.*"**

2. **The process of Christ's humiliation-exaltation.**

- Philippians 2:6-9-- *"Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name."*