

God's Final Revelation

To whom should we listen? Whose word ought we to take heed? Moses' law? The prophets' judgments? Many religious people turn to the inspired pages of the Old Testament to try to justify modern religious practices and conduct. Others simply rely on preachers and teachers to tell them what is right from wrong. Neither of these standards of justification are reliable sources today.

God has actually told us to whom we should listen and give heed. In Luke 9 we are told that Jesus went up a mountain to pray, and while praying, His appearance changed (v. 29). The Lord Jesus was transfigured. Then Moses and Elijah appeared in glory to speak to Him about His upcoming death in Jerusalem (vs. 30-31). When Peter, James and John woke up, they saw Jesus in glory with Moses and Elijah (v. 32). As Moses and Elijah were leaving, Peter suggested that three tabernacles should be made for Jesus, Moses and Elijah (v. 33). Who is to say that Peter's idea was a bad suggestion? While he was still talking, a cloud overshadowed them and God spoke, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (vs. 34-35). Peter's suggestion was NOT what God wanted. Although Moses was the Mediator of the Law to Israel, and Elijah was a prophet of God, God did not desire for them to be honored with tabernacles. God told the three apostles present at the transfiguration that they needed to listen and give heed to Jesus, His Son.

"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" (Heb. 1:1-2). God has not spoken to men in these last days in the same way He had previously. Now He speaks to us through Jesus Christ the Son. Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. . . . For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father as told Me, so I speak" (John 12:46, 49-50).

Everyone should listen to Jesus because He is preeminent. "When He had by Himself purged our sins," He "sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3). "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things are created that are in heaven and that are on earth" (Col. 1:15-16). He is above all thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities (Eph. 1:21). All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to God's Son Jesus (Matt. 28:18). Therefore, men ought to recognize the superiority of Jesus Christ who reigns on His heavenly throne. That realization should motivate all of us to take heed to the gospel of Christ.

Hebrews 1 points out that God did not say to any of the angels, "You are My Son, today I have begotten you. . . . I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son" (v. 5). Nor did He tell them, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool" (v. 13). Angels are simply ministering spirits. Jesus is better than the angels and has received a more excellent name by inheritance because He is the Son (Heb. 1:4). He is the eternal Word (John 1:1, 14).

When men understand the importance and necessity of listening to Jesus because He is the Son of God, then accepting the personal application becomes easier. "For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1). Salvation was first spoken by the Lord and then confirmed by the Holy Spirit as the apostles and prophets of Christ preached the gospel (v. 3). Today, we must give the more earnest heed to the inspired word of the Lord Jesus Christ because it is God's final revelation of salvation and eternal life. All men will be judged by the Lord's word (John 12:48).