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The Uniqueness of Jesus Hebrews 12

While the human authorship of Hebrews is unknown, there are times when the book bears a similarity to Paul's writings. Hebrews 12 is a notable example of this, as we move from an overwhelmingly doctrinal section (chapters 1-11) to a section that is full of practical applications and encouragements (12-13). And, in the midst of this ethical section, the first person to whom the Holy Spirit would direct us is Jesus (12.2).

In a world of gods, leaders, bosses, and kings, Jesus stands apart as unique. The race which we are running (12.1) is the race that He ran (12.2). In the service of Him and His Father, we are not called to do anything which He was unwilling to face Himself. To that end, the Holy Spirit describes Jesus as the "author and perfecter of faith." Jesus is the author of faith in the sense that He has laid down for us the picture and example of true obedience to God (5.7-9). Because He has been "tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin" (4.15), His is an example we should follow.

Following Jesus brings faith to its conclusion. He is the captain of faith and He is the finisher (perfecter, completer) of faith. That is to say, faith placed in Him ultimately brings about its promised reward. And what is the promised reward of faith? A relationship with God (11.6) and the realization of our hope (11.1).

The reward toward which our faith looks has been secured by no less an authority than Jesus. The death He endured on the cross (12.2) is for us. Not only is it an example for moments of difficulty in our lives (12.3), but His death also stands as a seminal moment in human history. Because of His death, a new covenant has been inaugurated (12.24). And, for us, the significance of this new covenant is seen in the forgiveness of sins that is available as a present reality, based on Jesus' sacrifice (Hebrews 8). Consider, then, the blessing of Christ's sacrifice and the blood He shed. The Holy Spirit would tell us that Jesus' blood "speaks better than the blood of Abel" (12.24). Abel's blood called out from the ground for vengeance (Genesis 4.10); Jesus' blood cries for mercy and pardon for us! -TS

Please feel free to contact us – we'd love to hear from you!
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